













**Twenty-year-old Louise Woodward in Manchester yesterday with Panorama reporter Martin Bashir, whom she told that she felt 'fortunate' to have only spent 279 days in jail in America**



**Clare Dyer**  
Legal Correspondent

**Luke Hardins**



**Sir David English: dynamic and inspirational editor**

It was left to New Labour to provide his epitaph. "He was a good friend. He was a great man," Tony Blair said. "But I think the most important thing about him was that he was a true man, and someone who meant a lot to me."

Rupert Murdoch added: "He was one of the few editors who left a great legacy in his successors."

Sir David's widow, Irene,



**Sir David English:** his *Daily Mail* came to symbolising the values of Middle England

was too ill to attend yesterday's service. Instead it was left to Lord Rothermere, owner of the *Evening Standard*, *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*, to give the address. Others had described Sir David as a "great journalist, inspired leader, and editor without compare", Lord Rothermere said. He wanted to recall "David the man", whom he described as "a loyal friend" a "faithful husband" and "a discerning father" — "a man for all seasons of the soul".

Lord Rothermere recounted how Sir David had been offered a peerage by Margaret Thatcher but had refused, asking that it be deferred until his retirement. Last year Mr Blair agreed to accept a renewed recommendation. Sir David died three days before his peerage was to be announced in this month's honours list.

After a series of stirring hymns, including Jerusalem, Sir David's coffin was carried out by his son, Neil, and other pallbearers.

The Prime Minister and Mr Murdoch followed, together with the editor's daughters, Amanda and Wilkie, and their families. As the funeral party spilled out into lunchtime sunshine, Sir Blair and Mr Murdoch carefully avoided being photographed together.

Sir David's body will be buried in Switzerland today near Villars, close to where he and his family have a chalet, and to where he would escape when pressures of work followed.

**Ruggero Nicolini**

gave her reaction to last week's decision of the Massachusetts supreme judicial court to allow her to go home.

Mr Bashir asked her why she had no message for Eapen family while questioned at a press conference at Manchester airport on the day she returned.

As the BBC's editor tried to get the programme ready for broadcast, the 28-year-old wife of the slain Woodward after the death accused her of "absolute child abuse".

In an e-mail to BBC News Online, Det Sgt William Byrne said he felt he had to tell his feelings known. "Why is it so hard for many people to realise that this is absolute child abuse?" he wrote. "If Louise Woodard was in America and in England, if [Louise Woodard] was a big unattractive woman with no teeth and tattoos, would the public have had the same opinion as to whether or not she was guilty?"

He ended by telling the BBC: "You may as well now know that I have no love for William Byrne of the Newton Police Department that interviewed, investigated and arrested Louise Woodard. I tested him out on the street with during the trial." His identity was later confirmed.

Ms Woodward's supporters said they hoped the programme will be another step in the fight to clear her name. "Louise just wants to tell her story," said Sandra McCabe, one of the founding members of the campaign group set up in Ms Woodward's home village of Elton in Cheshire following her arrest. "If you and I can do that, and with the scientific evidence to back her up, she will be able to prove her innocence and start to get on with her life. People should just listen to her."

The former au pair and her mother, Sue, refused to comment as they stroled through Elton, calling on wellwishers and supporters.

Andrew Miller, Ms Woodward's MP, said he was not among the millions who watched the programme, broadcast last week, but he was aware of its commitments in Parliament. However, he would watch a tape as soon as he could.

"This is the beginning of the story by which Louise can tell her story," he said. "I hope as a result of this we can start getting the scientific community to look carefully at the arguments and come out in support of Barry's case."

Barry Schiek has set out to help Louise to prove her innocence.

**Lucy Ward**  
**Political Correspondent**

seats reserved for special guests in the House to hear Liberal Democrat Lord Razzall raise her case.

The association insists its awards dinner has been a men-only occasion since its inception 25 years ago and would remain so.

Lord Razzall, a solicitor, presented a petition to peers calling for the Sex Discrimination Act to be changed to make the ban illegal.

He questioned why the PFA should discriminate "on the grounds of sex against a guest

**The awards dinner had been men only for 25 years and would stay so**

The event or condemned Mr Taylor's action included Graham Kelly, chairman of the Football Association, Mark Turnball, president of the National Union of Journalists, and John Monks, general secretary of the TUC.

David Ballster

"I also wonder whether the media is correct when it says we appear to accept incompetence rather than be branded as racists."

While recognising that mistakes were made, Mr Bennett says: "We set out to ensure none of our actions was racist and to obtain the more-than-water-tight evidence that is so necessary in today's criminal justice system, and as a result we have allowed the simple things to appear as incompetent — at least in hindsight."

\_\_\_\_\_

The proposals are part of wide ranging reforms recommended by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, to make justice speedier and more affordable. The fixed-costs proposals have met a hostile reception from personal injury lawyers, who argue that the costs will be inadequate when legal aid is removed and cases have to be done on a no win, no fee basis.

Lord Irvine said yesterday he was willing to consider exempting personal injury cases for a time, while monitoring how much costs cost.

Specific amounts would be allowed for each stage of the procedural process.

amount for the trial, which would not exceed a day. Incentives would be built into the costs scheme to encourage lawyers to settle out of court.

Advocates, whether barristers or solicitors, would be paid £500 for the trial and preparation for claims between £3,000 and £10,000, and £2750 for claims between £10,000 and £15,000.

One option that lawyers are urging on Lord Irvine is limiting fixed costs initially to the trial. In the meantime, a more fundamental examination of why costs can exceed the size of the claim would be undertaken.

A feasibility study on the fast-track scheme commissioned by the Lord Chancellor

It concludes that the reforms will require a huge "culture shift" on the part of lawyers. Solicitors' behaviour, creating a barrier to cheap and speedy resolution of legal disputes, is often motivated by fear of making the wrong move.

"Litigation is known to be a risky business and lawyers are often terrified that things will go wrong, leaving their clients blaming them and personally suing them. The generalist [non-specialist lawyers] preferred nervously to 'dust

[illegible]











A row over politicians' links with terrorism may block Nato enlargement, writes Philip Willan in Rome

## Moro's ghost haunts Italy

**A** FULL-BLOWN political drama threatens to develop today as the ghosts of Italy's turbulent past turn a routine vote on Nato enlargement into a test of confidence in the government.

The decision to admit the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to Nato is supported by the vast majority of MPs, but the government's survival has been thrown into doubt by a row over the shortcomings of long-vanished Christian Democrat administrations.

Criticism of their failure to tackle organised crime or secure the release of Aldo Moro, a former prime minister and chairman of the Christian Democrat Party who was kidnapped and killed by the Red Brigades 20 years ago, have poisoned the political atmosphere and threaten to block ratification of the Nato enlargement.

A key player in the skirmishing has been Francesco Cossiga, a former Italian president, whose Democratic Union for the Republic is staunchly pro-Nato while being outside the governing centre-left coalition.

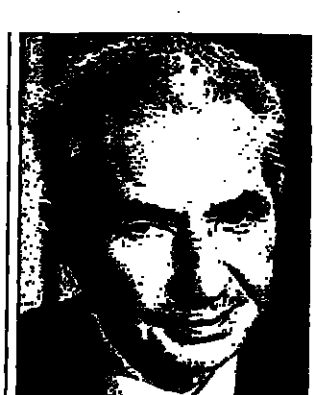
Mr Cossiga had promised to support the prime minister, Romano Prodi, on Nato expansion, thereby filling the gap in the government's majority left by Communist Refoundation, which normally backs Mr Prodi but is not keen on Nato and had announced it would be voting No. But that was before Mr Cossiga had travelled to Palermo to give evidence at the Mafia trial of his former political colleague, Giulio Andreotti, who is charged with alleged complicity with Cosa Nostra.

Relations between the two men have not always been cordial, so many were surprised when Mr Cossiga launched into a passionate defence of Mr

Andreotti. He told the court the former prime minister had been fanatically opposed to the Mafia, and had been prepared to stretch the law to the limit to crack down on organised crime.

This endorsement of Mr Andreotti's conduct elicited an immediate reply from Pietro Folena, the justice spokesman for the Left Democrats, the largest party in Mr Prodi's coalition. In a letter to a newspaper, he criticised Mr Cossiga's "justificationist theory" that Mr Andreotti had been too preoccupied with terrorism to deal effectively with the Mafia.

The state had also inadequately responded to the challenge of political terrorism, Mr Folena said. "Cossiga has said that the state was caught off guard at the time of the Moro kidnapping, but the documents that might have proved that lack of readiness have disappeared," he wrote.



Aldo Moro: Kidnapped and killed by Red Brigades

ated when President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro gave public support to the view that those who ordered Moro's kidnapping still remained unsanctified despite five successive trials.

Mr Scalfaro said he believed the captured terrorists were the colonels and not the real strategists of the Red Brigades' assault on the state.

Mr Cossiga responded to what he described as a two-pronged attack by the president and the Left Democrats by announcing that his party would not, after all, be voting in favour of an enlarged Nato.

He said the president's words raised grave doubts about the integrity of the government at the time of the Moro affair, the reliability of the structures of the state and the participation of Western powers and the United States in the horrendous crime.

For Giovanni Pellegrino, the chairman of the parliamentary commission which is investigating the mysteries of Italy's terrorist past, Mr Scalfaro's comments on the Moro affair were merely common sense. In an interview published yesterday by the Milan daily Corriere della Sera, he said the grandees of the former Christian Democrat Party were as likely to stab one another in the back as to gush with effusive expressions of solidarity.

"You don't have to be a conspiracy-monger to believe that the strength of the Red Brigades derived from something larger than the Red Brigades themselves," Mr Pellegrino said.

A last-minute compromise may yet save the parliament from the embarrassment of voting against a motion that most of its members support, but the rancour over the last few days is evidence that Italy is still conditioned by the unresolved mysteries of its recent history.

## Envoys leave as Belarus leader plumbs depths

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

**T**HE dispute between Belarus and the West worsened yesterday when the ambassadors from Britain, Germany, the United States, Japan, France, Greece and Italy returned home in protest against the former Soviet republic's closure of their residences.

Their Belarusian counterparts in the West are expected to be sent packing in a tit-for-tat measure. But diplomatic relations have not broken down completely: in a parting gesture, the British ambassador, Jessica Pearce, joined her French, German, Greek and Italian colleagues in a champagne toast "to an early return".

Ms Pearce said they hoped their departure would not worsen relations further, but she added: "This is a risk we are taking."

Poland said last night that it was considering withdrawing its ambassador and asking for the return of money it had invested in his residence.

The authorities in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, were unimpressed by the walk-out. "The foreign ministry considers there were no grounds to turn this action into a political incident, and views the political pressure and ultimatum directed at Belarus as unacceptable," it said.

If President Alexander Lukashenko re-opens their residences, the ambassadors are expected to return. Their recall follows a three-month dispute with him regarding a luxury com-



The German ambassador, Horst Winkelmann, arrives at Minsk airport yesterday for his flight home

pound on the outskirts of Minsk, which is home to most of the diplomatic community. The president has his private residence there and does not want his view spilt by foreign flags.

He told the diplomats to leave, claiming that emergency plumbing repairs needed to be done. When they complained of a severe breach of diplomatic protocol, the president appeared to relent before losing patience and blocking all entrances to the compound last Friday.

Ms Pearce said: "The point of us leaving is to show him that he cannot treat us in the way that he expects to be able to treat anyone in his country."

"Ambassadors are expected to be treated with a certain status, a certain respect and a certain common courtesy." The German ambassador, Horst Winkelmann, said: "I hope we will not be going for long, but everything that has happened is incomprehensible and sad."

Since he was elected three years ago, Mr Lukashenko, a former collective farm director, has persecuted the nationalist opposition and shown blatant disregard for civil rights. He has ignored strong criticism from European Union governments and the US on a number of incidents, including the shooting down of a hot air balloon carrying two Americans, the extension of his term of office by referendum, and public praise for Hitler.

Opposition figures do not expect the ambassadors' withdrawal to produce a change. Vitaly Tsigankov of the newspaper Svaboda said locking out the ambassadors "goes down well with his supporters. Only Russia has any real influence".

The country has little external debt with the West, and can ignore its criticisms. But it relies on Russian gas and oil. "The Kremlin will be rubbing its hands," said Mr Tsigankov. "If the Western embassies are closed down, Belarus will effectively lose its independence."

## Oldest monastery prays for a miracle

A Syriac Christian community is fighting for survival, caught in the war in south-east Turkey, writes Chris Morris in Midyat

**"I** came back here to help my community," Isa Dogdu says, staring out from the monastery walls at the sun-baked stone hills stretching away to the Syrian border. "I intend to stay here for as long as I can make it."

Isa is a Syriac Orthodox Christian who has recently returned to the isolated village of south-eastern Turkey after six years studying in England. But he is swimming against the tide. Tens of thousands of people from this an-

cient community have given up and migrated abroad. It is early Sunday morning and Isa has just taken part in mass at Mor Gabriel, the oldest functioning monastery in the world. Last year it celebrated its 1,600th anniversary in the region Syriac Christians call Tur Abdin.

The pews in the small church are all but empty. The faithful have departed but the monks are determined to maintain their age-old traditions. They speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ. "The monastery still plays

a great role for Christians in Tur Abdin, and for those in the diaspora," Saliba Ozmen, one of the monks, says. "We pray that one day our Christian brothers and sisters who have left will come back."

Their prayers are unlikely to be answered. Caught in the conflict between Kurdish rebels and Turkish security forces, most Syriac Christians have left their villages for good. Pressure is mounting on those who remain.

Tur Abdin is a bleak region. Economic necessity has played a role in the migration, but there is something else at work. Both Kurds and Turks have clashed with the Syrians in recent years, and a rise in Islamic fundamentalism has made matters worse. The monks are reluctant to speak publicly about the problems, but local people say the Turkish authorities distrust the community. The district governor wants the monks to stop educating children at Mor Gabriel and has forbidden them to repair their buildings.

"They want us all to leave," says a man in the nearby town of Midyat, tucking into a huge bowl of lava, a local stew. "Seventy members of my extended family are now in Sweden, but it would be too cold for me." His friends laugh, but they too are wary about the future. Midyat used to be famous for its Syriac silversmiths, and their intricate filigree jewellery. Only half a dozen are left now.

"Anyone who wants to go is

leaving," says Sami Alptekin, one of the last silversmiths. "As long as there's a community here there's always going to be a culture. But when the community disappears, the culture dies." Across the road from his home, the neighbouring house stands shuttered and empty, its yellow walls glowing in the sun. "The people have gone; only the stones remain," he says.

Only two main monasteries are left in the region, and Syriac Christianity may soon be no more than a memory in its ancient heartland.

Syriacs across the world, from the large community in southern India to the new outposts in western Europe, support their brethren in south-eastern Turkey. Time, though, is taking its toll and a long decline has accelerated in recent years.

The plight of Turkey's Syriac Christians has also attracted the attention of groups in Britain and elsewhere who campaign for religious freedom. Representatives of foreign embassies regularly visit Mor Gabriel. Visitors are made welcome, but the community knows it will have to find strength from within if it is to survive. The future is in the hands of young men like Isa Dogdu. His village was forcibly evicted during the war and most of his family are now in Switzerland. Isa was offered a job as a priest in London, where a Syriac mass is celebrated every fortnight at the Coptic church in Kensington. "I loved England, but I love here more," he says. "That's why I came home. I know it will be difficult, but I felt I had to try."

**The area governor wants the monks to stop educating children and has forbidden them to repair buildings**

### News in brief

#### Ugandan schoolgirls snatched by rebels

**R**EBELS of the Lord's Resistance Army raided a school in northern Uganda at the weekend and abducted 39 girls, the military said. They added that two of the girls, from St Charles Lwanga secondary school in Kitgum district, had since escaped. Fifty other people were kidnapped at the weekend in a series of raids in the north by the LRA rebels, who are based in southern Sudan and whose main method of recruitment is abduction. According to Unicef, the LRA have taken at least 10,000 young people in the past three years. There had been a recent lull in abductions, but the military said the rebels had reverted to their old tactics to replenish their numbers. — Anna Borzello, Kampala.

#### Billionaire's aide extradited

**A** SENIOR aide to Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi billionaire and financier of Islamic extremists worldwide, has been extradited to Egypt to stand trial, police in Cairo said yesterday. Saeed Sayed Salama, an Egyptian national, was returned from an unidentified Arab country several days ago and has been charged with planning to overthrow the Egyptian government, the officials said. He is also charged with joining an illegal organisation. If convicted, he could be executed. The officials said Mr Salama had confessed to working closely with Mr Bin Laden in Afghanistan and was given the task of supervising some of his economic projects. Mr Salama was a member of the Egyptian extremist group Islamic Jihad which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. — AP, Cairo.

#### PM sets cabinet deadline

**T**HE Romanian prime minister, Radu Vasile, yesterday gave the 26 members of his cabinet three days to say whether they had collaborated in the past with the country's Communist secret police, the Securitate. Mr Vasile expected an answer on his return from a visit to Poland on Thursday, his aide Gabriel Piscociu said. The health minister, Francisc Barany, admitted last week that he was a Securitate agent, saying he was forced to co-operate and did not know any harm. Mr Vasile has demanded his resignation. The centre-right government, which replaced a cabinet of former communists in late 1996, has been stumped to find Securitate collaborators in its ranks, particularly in parties such as the National Peasants' Party, many of whose senior men were killed by its agents. — AP, Bucharest.

#### Riga reforms citizen law

**L**ATVIA'S controversial citizenship law, which has prompted threats of trade sanctions from Russia after it left about a third of the population stateless, was amended by the Latvian parliament yesterday. The amendment means all children born in the country since independence in 1991 will be granted automatic citizenship, regardless of whether their parents are citizens. At independence Riga granted citizenship only to those who had lived there before Latvia was forcibly annexed in 1940 and to their descendants. That left some 700,000 people stateless, most of them ethnic Russians moved there under Josef Stalin's Russification drive, and their descendants. — AP, Riga.

#### Banana denies charges

**Z**IMBABWE'S former president Canaan Banana told the high court in Harare yesterday that charges of sodomy were "absolute nonsense" after his lawyer failed to have the case dismissed. The 62-year-old cleric said he had no idea why former aides, a gardener and an unemployed man he allegedly picked off the streets had made the allegations. Mr Banana replied "Never" and "Absolute nonsense" when asked whether he sodomised or tried to sexually attack members of his staff, or offered any of them dinner and drinks or danced or slept with them. The high court ruled that Mr Banana must defend himself against the charges after deciding that there was enough evidence "for any reasonable court to convict him". — Reuters, Harare.

#### Traffic in women growing

**T**HE United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, told a conference in Budapest yesterday that trafficking in women was a growing global problem. UN figures show that up to 4 million people are smuggled into foreign countries each year, generating as much as \$4.4 billion for criminal syndicates. — Reuters, Budapest.

#### Bears face increased cull

**S**WEDEN said yesterday it had increased its bear cull this year because domestic animals had been attacked and beehives damaged. Hunters will be allowed to shoot 78 of the country's 1,000 bears, up nine from last year. — Reuters, Stockholm.

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**In the time it takes to read this article, 29 women somewhere in the world will be ripped apart giving birth.**  
Maggie O'Kane in Niger

**G2 page 8**

nuclear deal





# Simon Bowers

**A** CHARMING letter has arrived from Centurion Press Ltd. It is just a note to say how delighted we were to hear that your chairman David Evans has been awarded a Life Peerage. "How nice." "I thought you might be interested." It goes on, "in the attached biography and photograph." We are indeed. Thank you very much.

# Ministers prepare to blame an Asian meltdown for their future failures

**Hugo Young**



There were blips in the acquiescence. Flirting with lower benefits for the disabled was an adventure too far. An attack on the finances of single parents attracted so much outrage that it had to be rectified in another way. Ministers occasionally got into trouble — the Lord Chancellor, the Foreign Secretary. But these things made little impact outside the political world. The Government was blessed. Rid-

With this, inevitably, come doubts about the promises. Yes, these were always prudently framed. Class sizes and hospital waiting-lists were to be counted only at the end of the first term. But if we're talking stagflation, a glimmering of doubt arises, just as it does about the treasured well-known phrase, "a permanent, non-inflationary growth," though which doubt, though, would be decimated. Even now, one hears ministers getting ready to blame an Asian meltdown, the thing we're told Mr Blair fears most, as the reason for possible, entirely unforceable, failure.

Good summer is also on the way, politically speaking. It has become a nasty surprise. The devolution statute evokes no gratitude, only a variety of re-

**D**EALING with this change, ministers take comfort not only from its inevitability but from the apparent absence of anyone to take advantage of it. The Conservatives are divided and their leader is weak. There is a lack of people ready to whom they can turn for support and dissent might gather. William Hague's inability to make even road points tell reveals a pitiable lack of personal authority. The descent of the Government away from unquestioned ac-

This is a situation which Mr Blair is fully capable of handling. He has asked the wide-angle politicians who have been awailing the moment when the tide of support would turn against him. But other aspects of pre-Blairste normality, such as the fact that the government's policies are not themselves. Doubt will blossom, argument intensity. More critics will show their heads, fastening on the common perception that ministers are blundering. The media will take their depth. Frustrated Labour back-benchers will edge into the limelight. Media spinning will be conducted from a less vibrant, more defensive position. The government's campaigning even more aggressive in its methods. But it will be less successful. We know we have a government that is nothing more than a collection of nice, mercifully, will be rescued.

# Celebrity nobodies

**Ekow  
Eshun**

**T**HE most popular film now showing on American cinema screens is *The Truman Show*, starring Jim Carrey as Truman Burbank, an ordinary guy who wakes up one morning to discover his entire life has been an elaborately choreographed soap opera. The place where his wife and neighbours are actors, and his every experience since birth has been broadcast live to a global audience in the hundreds of millions via hidden cameras. Although he is unaware of the fact, Truman Burbank is the most famous man in the world. While he is bored and frustrated by the banality of his smalltown life—maddeningly chipper wife, spirit-

this could never have been achieved. Then, we were used to stars like Madonna, who reinvented herself over and over, plundering the imagery of old Hollywood in an attempt to become a new icon. But today we are wary of such vanity. There is, among the public, a greater awareness of the process of manufacture involved in creating a star. We are more likely to see a star born. Instead, like Liza Minnelli, the role model for recent big night out scene stealers like Denise Van Outen (that ashtray scene in *Shogun*) is that she, too, must sell their moment and spin it and spin it until the result is newspaper headlines, TV appearances and lucrative product endorsements. The media's own obsession with spin, we are all less naive and more informed about the collusion between event organizers, agents, paparazzi and the media that create a tabloid sensation.

Celebrity has traditionally depended on distance to fuel its mystique. That's why Garbo is still revered. But as paparazzi lenses get longer and longer, the stars get closer and closer until finally the veil falls and we realise there is nothing different about them compared to us.

The outcome of this is programmes like *The Big Break* and *The Restaurant*, where we gaze at the construction of a TV show and recognise it for what it is: artifice and commerce. Perhaps surprisingly, there is little cynicism involved here. It is as though presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and even the Duke of Windsor, Van Ouden have looked at the transience and mutability of their own fame and realised that it is not a precious commodity, but rather a playing which can be enjoyed as much by those who are not as famous as those who are presenting it. Denise steals an ashtray from Buck-

**Doe-eyed Louise  
Nurding evidences  
little in the way of  
charisma or wit**

ingham Palace and brightenishes it on the show, confident in the knowledge that the act will win her both publicity and a strengthened rapport with the programme's viewers, many of whom might have done the same if presented with the opportunity. But there are no such magic, less mysterious, to celebrity today, such programmes suggest there is little need to mourn its passing.

At the end of *The Truman Show*, Jim Carrey's hero breaks out of the fake town TV set and goes home for 30 years. He's not sure where he'll find on the other side and now, watching his progress, are we. Yet in trading fantasy for reality, he's asserting his right to be an ordinary human being, to imply the uniqueness that implies, maybe, that's enough for now.

**Ekow Eshun** is editor of *Arena* magazine.

## Ministers' new plans for asylum-seekers will reveal whether they care more about the tabloids — or about fairness

# Hands off migrants

## Claudio Moraes

**T**HE Government will soon launch its asylum and immigration policies after a period of more than a year of review. Creating a just but pragmatic policy is now within reach but loaded with difficulties.

There is deep political sensitivity, partly due to history, and partly to the way in which a minority of the public and powerful tabloid papers have led and reinforced negative public opinion.

Recent events, like the Campsfield detention centre "riots", the death of Enoch Powell and the celebration of Windrush bringing West Indian immigrants to the UK 50 years ago, suggest that the challenge of asylum and immigration remain powerful and emotive.

Reform of the system will

not be straightforward. Labour has inherited a system now openly described as being in chaos, and therefore has practical as well as political problems to solve.

The Conservative government adopted a dual policy of "prevention and deterrence". It dealt with pressure of asylum on the UK through "prevention" — imposing visas on asylum producing countries or forcing airlines carrying asylum-seekers to undertake a check. It was impossible to get a visa in a country genuinely in turmoil, while a global network of "agents" provided false documents.

The last government also wanted to "deter" asylum-seekers, and so increased the use of extra-judicial detention, which has become a situation which continues to cause great concern.

Between prevention and

difference lay an asylum determination system which now simply does not work. Government and those who represent asylum-seekers agree that it is full of delay and costs too much. The resulting backlog of cases is now huge — 51,000.

International human

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This is a chance to draw a line under an unfair and ineffective system

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What then should the Government do? A major step from Justice and the Immigration Rights Task Force is to explore ways to move the process forward. It said it would be better to grant asylum status earlier in the process, if necessary on a group basis, and with an initial time limit, to people who clearly cannot safely or humanely be removed. They must come with an allocation of rights, particularly family reunion rights, and with an exception of more permanent status if return is still impossible after an agreed period.

The determination process could then concentrate on dealing effectively with those whose claims are less clear-cut, or not well-founded.

The system must be made more effective, with better trained staff, making use of guidelines based on published guidelines and an independent documentation centre offering objective factual information about the countries and circumstances from which asylum-seekers come.

The appeal procedure should be restricted so that it is capable of setting a strong precedent, without the need to take each individual issue to the courts.

But no system can work effectively with this huge backlog. The new government now has a unique chance to draw a line under an unfair, ineffective system. It can find imaginative ways of clearing the backlog, and create a system capable of identifying those who need protection and those who do not.

policy, the other part of the government review, is also desirable. There should be a family law by statute restoring visitor appeals rights and other measures building on Labour's scrapping of the unjust "primary purpose" marriage rule. This would send a message to Britain's ethnic minorities, and anyone who believes in fairness, that the new government will do something that is both just and values the huge economic, social and cultural impact of recent immigration.

This will require the political will to change the terms of the debate away from one driven by the tabloids. These issues need to be given the same status as the moral temperature of the country.

Claude Moraes is director of the Joint Council for the Welfare

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## Letters to the Editor

adpoets and  
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**East West Africa**  
**South African Delegation**  
 postponed their visit to  
 witnesses the Rho-  
 sanda trial in Durban  
 until 1986. Two of  
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 but five others are  
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 The D's secretary  
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 This is in breach  
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 Though most  
 are granted

# Bench

**CHRIS WOOD** is an associate editor at the *Guardian*. He has written extensively on education and is the author of *Teaching in the Inner City* (1995).

## 4to national:

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**The Guardian**  
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**Celebrity  
bodies**

**Jerusalem's  
walled city**

Israel is disingenuous

NO ISSUE in the conflict between Israel and the Arabs is as emotive as Jerusalem. It has been held in its entirety by Israel since the 1967 war and the heat generated by the new plan to extend its boundaries radiates far beyond the city limits. Under the plan, the municipality is to annex land to the west — inside Israel's pre-1967 borders — while, more significantly, an expanded "umbrella municipality" is to adopt administrative powers over nearby Jewish towns, including some in the occupied West Bank.

After a chorus of criticism from the US, the EU, Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu continued to insist yesterday that the plan was not political, but intended merely to improve services, attract more investment, tax revenue and industry and to boost the Jewish population. Palestinians argued, equally forcefully, that it will mean more creeping annexation of West Bank land and alter the status of Jerusalem, both issues that are supposed to be negotiated as part of the final stage of the faltering Oslo peace process.

The Likud government, like its Labour predecessor, has never concealed its position that Jerusalem is Israel's "eternal and indivisible" capital. But to dismiss this latest plan as some narrow municipal issue is disingenuous. True, Oslo deliberately leaves Jerusalem aside, along with other

contentious problems like refugees and final borders, but any unilateral action is bound to breach the spirit of the agreement. As so often in the history of the conflict, this row is about creating facts, and specifically about people and land.

The plan was drawn up after a study showed that Jerusalem's Palestinian community would grow to 45 per cent of the city's population by 2020. Redrawing the boundaries would mean a demographic mix of 70 per cent Jews and 30 per cent Arabs in the new municipal area by 2020, a slight increase on the current 29 per cent, with Palestinians accounting for 180,000 of Jerusalem's 630,000 residents.

Jerusalem still has the golden-domed Mosque of Omar and the Western Wall of the ancient Jewish Temple at its heart, but otherwise it has changed beyond recognition since the Six Days War. Then Israel unilaterally annexed the eastern, Jordanian-controlled side of the city and expanded its boundaries in three directions, so it already covers large tracts of land that were part of the West Bank. Palestinians also point out that much of West Jerusalem was conquered by Israel in breach of the United Nations partition plan of 1947. Yet if there is ever to be a mutually acceptable partition — the only solution to a century of war — the line has to be drawn somewhere. Israel is trying to ensure that it and nobody else determines where that line is.

Robin Cook, representing the EU, stepped into this minefield earlier this year when he visited the settlement site at Har Homa. He was criticised, but in his approach the principle was entirely correct: occupied territory is occupied territory.

would make it easier to link sites like Har Homa, which closes the ring of Jewish settlements round the city, with others like Ma'aleh Adumim on the road to Jericho. Palestinian protests that the plan is a municipal ruse are justified. It contains not a shred of the goodwill and compromise that must be achieved between the two peoples who live in Jerusalem. This move should be condemned as another blow to frail hopes that a meaningful peace can be achieved.

**Dome beats time**  
But will it win hearts and minds?

IT would have been a multi-dimensional tragedy if a project located on the meridian line were not built on time as well as on time. But so far, so good. Tony Blair could be forgiven self-congratulation yesterday as he presided over the topping out of the Millennium Dome, a public project which has — so far — confounded its critics by being built ahead of time and within budget (builders of the private sector rail link to the Channel tunnel, please note). Mr Blair sensibly declared that Lord Rogers's edifice was "too good to be pulled down" and there should be a lasting use for it. Officials at the Dome said that it could survive for hundreds of years if properly maintained. There should be an international competition for the best long-term use of the former, contaminated gasworks site.

The Government may be winning the building battle but it has yet to win over the hearts and minds of people. A survey published yesterday by J&B Rare whisky found that nearly twice as many young people

would prefer to celebrate the millennium at Times Square in New York than at Greenwich. But all could change as the site becomes a reality. Both the historic events of 1851 and 1951 were unpopular and slated by the press, but they surprised everyone in the end.

Mr Blair also revealed that £100 million of the £150 million due to be raised from business sponsorship by the end of the year was already assured, suggesting that industry's initial scepticism about the Dome was at last being allayed. Even if it doesn't live up to Mr Blair's hyperbolic expectations ("the greatest day out on Earth in the year 2000") it looks as though it will eventually be a success. This is important for Mr Blair politically because the success of this entrepreneurial endeavour is umbilically linked to the branding of Britain and New Labour's fortunes. If it is a success Labour will milk it to the full. If it fails, then William Hague — who has been distancing himself from the scheme even though it was started by the Conservatives — will run with it for all his political worth. This is a project that clearly must not be allowed to fail.

**Fallen prophets**  
It's the art that matters

"LOVE gives naught but itself," wrote the prophet, "and takes naught but from itself." Sounds good, doesn't it? "Love possesses not nor would it be possessed. For love is sufficient unto itself." All pretty inspiring. Except now it turns out the author of those words, Kahlil Gibran, was not the pure ascetic imagined by the millions who have

drawn comfort from his 1923 bestseller, *The Prophet*. On the contrary, a new biography casts him as a drunken wreck, pursuing numerous affairs and duping the woman who loved and subsidised him. The implication is clear: who can draw strength from the words of the Prophet now we know their author was so desperately flawed? Yesterday also brought more detail of George Orwell's secret life as a government informant, grating on his fellow leftists. Once again: why bother with 1984 and Animal Farm now we know both were the jottings of a mere sneak and gossip?

Both Gibran and Orwell are posthumous victims of a growing public fondness for reputation-busting biography. Each month seems to bring a new book, excavating dirt from the life of a great man. Television has got in on the act with the Secret History and Reputations series. Central to the genre is the exposing of a supposed gap between the public work and the private life. Recent victims include sculptor Eric Gill, revealed as a sex maniac of rampant and incestuous appetites; childcare guru Benjamin Spock, exposed as a harsh dad; and liberal economist John Maynard Keynes, outed as an outrageous elitist and snob.

But, while they might be interesting, such revelations should not be devastating. The work still stands, no matter how vile the man or woman who created it. Wagner was an anti-semitic; that doesn't mean the Valkyrie isn't a great opera. T S Eliot's views on race were pretty nasty, but they don't affect the merits of the Wasteland. We should remember: many of these figures produced great work because they were haunted by inner demons. We accept that in their art; it's time we accepted it in their lives, too.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Dead poets and gay presidents**

TROTSKY could hardly have been responsible for Sergei Yesselin's death (Report, June 22). In 1925 Trotsky was not in a position to "ask the secret police" to do anything — Stalin had dispersed the workers' opposition and Trotsky was in a relatively junior position. He was in fact one of the few Bolshevik leaders to support freedom of artistic expression, one reason for his fall from grace. John Medhurst, Hove, E Sussex.

How old does George Carey think a boy has to be before he can decide to be a Christian? Should the Church confirm boys before they are 16? Are Christian children being pressurised by older men with their own agenda to make a lifestyle decision? Is confirming boys at 13 "sending the wrong message"? Peter Wyles, London.

INGRID Seward is reported as saying (Is Edward gay, The Editor, June 13): "I think guys would love the idea of a gay royal." Personally I would settle for a gay president. Damian Entwistle, Nelson, Lancs.

IF British citizenship is dependent on reciprocal access (Passport statements, June 22), will the Government suspend access to the UK by Channel Islanders until their governments allow UK citizens the right to live there without work permits? Peter Gillings, London.

I AM sure David Puttnam is sincere when he says that the "Oscars for teachers" (Awards plan for teachers, June 19) are not meant to be a substitute for properly rewarding teachers. Unfortunately he is wrong. That is exactly what they are meant to be. Christine Blower, NUT president 1997-1998, London.

According to Radio 5 this morning, the Millennium Dome is sufficiently large "to contain the Albert Hall twice over". Great: now they know how many Albert Halls it takes to fill the Hole. David Perkins, London.

Please include a full postal address. We may edit letters.

**Shame of asylum rules**

LAST week the case brought against nine West Africans in Campfield House Detention Centre collapsed due to unreliable evidence (Rioting case against asylum-seekers falls apart, June 18). Two of the nine have been granted refugee status, but five, although acquitted of the charges, have been transferred to Rochester prison. The UK's asylum detention policy, more than half were awaiting an initial decision on their claim, and more than 20 had been detained for longer than a year.

The decision to detain an asylum-seeker is taken by an immigration officer. A recent report on Campfield by the Chief Inspector of Prisons made over 90 recommendations, most of which have been accepted. The significant exception is judicial oversight of the decision to detain asylum-seekers, the absence of which Amnesty believes is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. Detention is used by the Government to attempt to deter asylum-seekers from entering the UK. Those fleeing human rights violations, who may be held in detention for an indefinite period with no opportunity to challenge the decision, have fewer rights than those who are suspected of terrorist activity. The Government should stop the shameful practice of arbitrarily detaining asylum-seekers. Jan Shaw, Refugee officer, Amnesty International, London.

**Benchmarks**

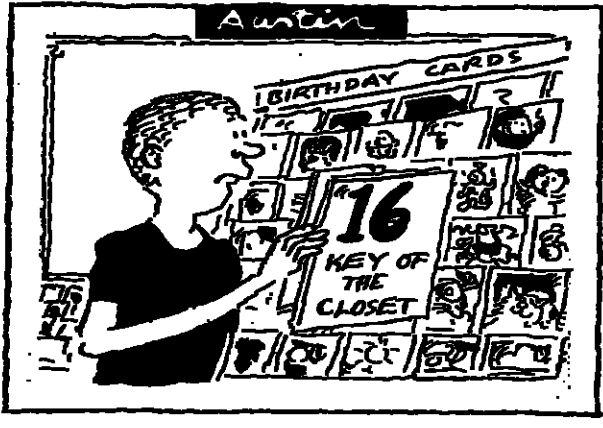
CHRIS Woodhead (Twaddle to you, June 13) was right in asserting the importance of "truth, accuracy, fairness" in matters concerning the effectiveness of schools, their inspection and correction of any imperfections. But for all schools to be successful, we need to use and generate more evidence about performance differences between children as well as schools.

Using free school meals, for example, as an all-purpose proxy for disadvantage just isn't good enough. What about the challenges faced by schools and families in the inner city, as opposed to postwar estates on the edge of our cities? What about the children of Indian and Chinese, as opposed to Afro-Caribbean or Bangladeshi, families? Likewise, instead of personalising the efficiency of teachers, why not analyse the impact of teacher turnover rates, length of service and whether teachers are teaching their specialist subject? Pupil turnover is a further issue, as is the "critical mass" of well-motivated and parentally supported pupils.

**Peer group**

MR Blair's use of patronage in relation to knights, hoods and life peerages is increasingly worrying. It seems that in many cases the recipients have had pockets deep enough to attend one or more of the 94 celebrity fund-raising dinners, to become members of the £1000 club or put money into so-called blind funds to finance the offices in opposition of Mr Blair and others now in his Cabinet. The people concerned may well be worthy citizens deserving their elevation, but this is an area where transparency is essential and where substantial political donations should be an absolute bar to promotion. Beryl Urquhart OBE, Bridgewater, Somerset.

THOUGH an unemployed, single mother and new age traveller, I think we should keep the Lords as we need some form of power that is not under Tony Blair's control. It is clear he only wants to get rid of the Lords because he is a raving megalomaniac. A Miller, Stroud, Glos.



**Making houseroom for the poor**

GEORGE Monbiot does well to highlight the need to give greater attention to social housing in regional plans (The Poor Don't Exist, June 18). However, he does the case for meeting housing needs no favours by criticising those who believe less is required than the Government's trend-based household projections suggest. Regional planners in the Somerset case are rising to the challenge set by John Prescott and taking the "predict and provide" approach which has served us so badly. The problem is that not enough new homes are affordable, and a significant proportion of the existing stock is vacant or in poor condition. There is little point in allocating more land for social housing that will not be built because of a lack of resources. The way forward lies in making sure a much greater share meets social needs, with regional planning targets, and that development reflects the capacity of the environment to accommodate change. There we will find Prescott's "urban renaissance", better protection for rural England and improved access to homes for those who need them. Tony Burton, Assistant Director, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, London.

GEORGE Monbiot is wrong on the proposal by Serplan to reduce the number of new single-person households needed: it is not an attack on the poor and defenceless. Projections suggest that any single person will be able to afford their own dwelling but not want to live separately, and the rate at which single households are formed through divorce is partly offset by many pairing up again. Plans should make provision for the best estimate of numbers of all kinds of household to ensure that excessive development is avoided. By reducing overall numbers Serplan is not mis-matching — contrary to Monbiot's accusation. Society should meet all housing needs, but if it lacks political will and fails to provide funding, we must prevent unmet needs being transformed into more greenfield building. Cllr Harvey Cole, Winchester, Hants.

**Astor's Cliveden**

YOUR report on Bill Gates's investment in Cliveden failed to mention that the estate is owned by the National Trust. The property continues to be open to the public, and under the terms of the lease to the hotel, access to part of the house is guaranteed. On Thursday and Sunday afternoons from April to October visitors may view the Sargent portrait of Nancy Astor, as well as the French dining-room where she held her famous parties. Changes in the ownership of shares will not affect these arrangements. You also refer to Cliveden as the home of the Hitler-loving fast set. This is unfair. Although Lady Astor was involved in attempts at Anglo-German diplomacy and had right-wing acquaintances, she also had socialist friends, including George Bernard Shaw. Astors served in both world wars, and Lord Astor gave over a site on the estate to a military hospital in both conflicts. A memorial cemetery was created at Cliveden, now cared for by the National Trust with the War Graves Commission. I hope that this puts the Astors' wartime role into perspective. Carl Shillito, Property manager, Cliveden Estate, Berkshire.

**Crack squad**

WHEN I was a young train-spotter in the forties, a familiar figure at mainline stations was the wheelapper, a man with a hammer on a pole who walked along the line, tapping wheels and listening for the tell-tale sound telling him there was a crack. It seems fairly certain that the crackin' Germany and the recent derailment in Bedfordshire, both at high speed, were caused by cracked wheels. I haven't seen a wheelapper for years; do they still exist, or is this another down-at-the-heels far? Mike Broadbent, Luton, Bedfordshire.

ANY regular rail-user will have been aware of the "tattoo" caused by "flats" on the wheels of high-speed trains which causes stress both on wheels and bearings by continuous "hammering". Doubtless the leasing company consider it too costly to withdraw rolling-stock for corrective wheel "turning", but when the shareholders of these concerns are wheeling their gains to the bank, they could give a thought to passengers suffering the racket and risk resulting from their companies' parsimony. P A Blencowe, Churchdown, Glos.

**Ode to nationalism more like hymn to white man's burden**

JONATHAN Freedland makes an ambitious but confused attempt to reclaim nationalism as a progressive force for the Left (June 20). He is clearly on safe ground excavating the neglected dissenting tradition of the Levellers, Tom Paine, Blake, Mary Wollstonecraft and Shelley, to which one adds Orwell, William Morris and R H Tawney.

But he is guilty of a misguided revisionism if he thinks this same dissenting tradition can accommodate the British empire as an "example of early internationalism that lives to this day". His argument that colonised peoples of the British empire were spared the barbarism committed by other imperial

powers is fallacious and lends itself to Kipling's myth of the white man's burden. Steven Garside, Manchester.

JONATHAN Freedland's nationalist diatribe is profoundly naive. While it can be argued that nationalism is a form of identity based on notions of commonality and community, it is also founded on the exclusion of others, and cannot be open and inclusive since it articulates a geographically "bounded community". Freedland's talk of "gentler, kinder" nationalists, founded upon a history of suffering, ignores the role of nationalism in creating that suffering, and how "gentler"

nationalisms can be utilised to justify prejudice and violence towards the excluded. Palestinian nationalism has been largely a reaction to Zionism, itself born from exclusion and suffering. Freedland's call for a reformulation of nationalism is dangerous, since such a project can be hijacked by the Right. A safer solution would be the nurturing of inclusive, global identities. To reject nationalism is not "to give a posthumous victory to Thatcherism", rather it is a positive rejection of the "Faulklands mentality" of Thatcherism and the petty, egocentric tribalism of English football supporters. Dave Lewis, London.

IN the first century BC Horace said: "Sport begets tumultuous strife and wrath, and wrath begets fierce quarrel and war to the death." Things haven't changed much. Patricia Lockett, Somerton, Somerset.

IF the hooligans had been smoking cannabis, there would have been no violence. They would love everybody and they just wouldn't be bothered. John Fleming, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

FIFTEEN years in Chateau D'T should cure them. Frank McFarlane, Stevenage, Herts.

**Oxbridge makes collegiate response to Tusa's criticism**

AS one of the senior Fellows of Wolfson College, Cambridge, I played a part in encouraging John Tusa to allow his name to go forward for election as president (Jolly bad fellows, June 20). I was sorry when he resigned. I felt that the attitudes and behaviour of some senior members towards him were regrettable. However, the faults are not all on one side. Tusa was impatient and at times arrogant. I also find it surprising that, given he spent so little time in Cambridge and so much in London (by agreement), he gleaned enough to be able to assert that colleges are "decorative but not essential to the work of a university". It is not surprising that his sojourn in the university — whose strength lies in the fact that it is collegiate — was unhappy. Bill Kirkman, Cambridge.

IT is only natural that John Tusa should seize the opportunity provided by Judge Stephen Tusa's departure as an Oxford college principal to get his own back on the fellows of Wolfson College, but it is a pity you add to the media stereotyping of Oxbridge colleges as fuddy-duddy Brideshead places. This has prevented any serious discussion over past months of Oxbridge's place in the national education system. Contrary to what Tusa claims, Oxford colleges already publish accounts, and they are not inessential to the work of a university. The colleges are the university, and serious, well-run institutions which, in current jargon, deliver an excellent product. Averil Cameron, Warden, Keble College, Oxford.

HAD to sigh at John Tusa's recollection of his wife, Ann, being asked by a Cambridge don, "Do you do anything to keep yourself out of mischief, Mrs Tusa?" An Oxford fellow, friend of mine once asked if his wife, a London lawyer, was included in his invitation to a college garden party. "Lord, yes," came the reply. "We shall need all the help with the tea we can get." Anne Fine, Barnard Castle, Co Durham.

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## Lucia Nogueira

# The art of transformation

[illegible]

stems of cotton grass, which is not really a grass but a member of the sedge family, I didn't see the rare bog rosemary, which is said to have reappeared here recently following the disappearance of a previous plant on the end of a gardener's trowel.

صفتنا من الاعمال



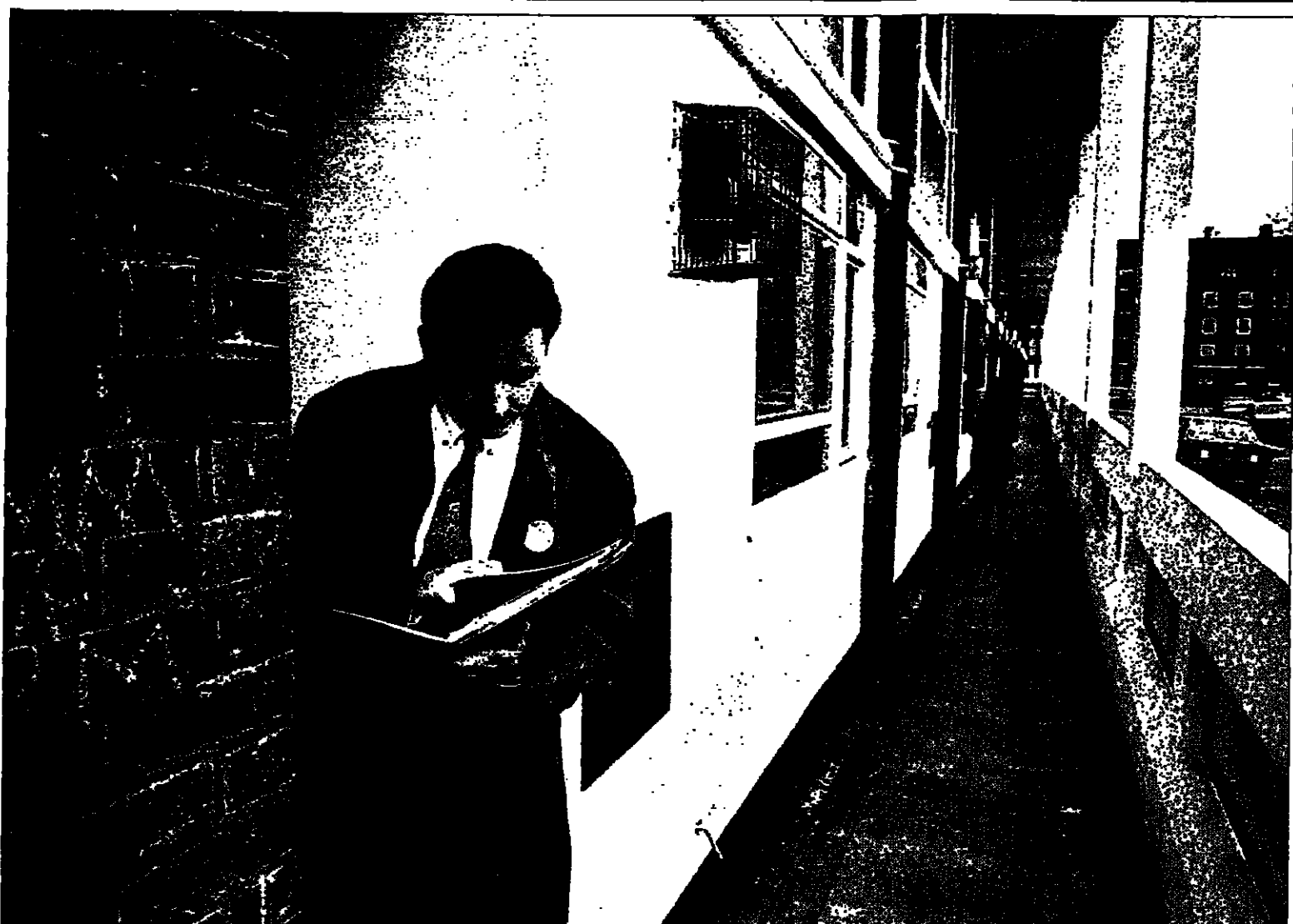
# Analysis Party membership



**Ekow Eshun:**  
Nature of fame  
8

Labour is embarrassed over the leak of figures showing it has been losing members recently – but only because it thought it could buck the historical trend against mass membership in political parties. **Ewen MacAskill** says there are fewer and fewer party people, home and abroad

## Stuff that envelope, say the activists



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN ARSELS

**L**ABOUR Party membership is in decline. But nobody gave Tony Blair the bad news. Headquarters at Millbank, where the figures are collated, seems not to have passed on the information to a Prime Minister basking in personal popularity.

Now Downing Street is conducting an inquiry into how such a break-down in communication could happen in its hush machine for political communication. One party worker, putting on a brave face yesterday, said it was better to have it out now: "The longer we are in denial mode the worse it gets".

His political instincts had warned him, in the aftermath of the lone parent revolt last autumn, Mr Blair contacted Millbank to check if there had been a backlash among the membership. He was completely told that the party was merely treading water. In reality there had been a spate of considered resignations and numbers had failed to renew their membership.

Just how bad the news is depends on a context of confidence. Before the general election, Labour had set itself a target of 450,000 individual members, keen to emulate the kind of mass membership achieved by European social democratic parties (1). Earlier this year, the party put membership at 406,000 and the official line has been to describe itself as the "fastest growing party in Western Europe".

Now the cold water. Over the weekend, the party conceded that membership has fallen, to around 385,000. A party source said that if the number of members who are in arrears on their subscriptions are stripped out, the figure may even be lower.

Numbers look even worse if set against a target of one million members announced ten years ago. Gordon Brown was

given the job of spearheading the campaign. The fanfare has long since become muted. The official line: "In the very broadest, long-term basis that is still our aim. No-one is saying we will have a million by the next election. That would require a dramatic increase." An understatement.

Labour leaders are sensitive about decline. Is it, as cynical left-wingers claim, that members are leaving in droves, disillusioned by Blairism, especially the treatment of lone parents? Or is it more mundane, as Labour headquarters suggests. Many people joined in the excitement of the run-up to the general election but have merely not bothered to renew their subscriptions.

Labour did set itself an impossible target. Joining is not fashionable. Party membership is in secular decline: numbers of paid-up adherents have been falling decade after decade, across the parties. And not only in Britain. In Scandinavia, the cradle of social democracy, membership is dropping off. Only Austria and Germany have seen increases. But patronage may play a part in those corporatist societies. Membership of a party in Austria has often been a prerequisite for gaining a council house and jobs in Germany are often dependent on membership (2).

Parties have been losing out to single-issue pressure groups. The kind of idealism once associated with Labour, This Great Movement of Ours has been transferred to crusades such as protection of the environment. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky of Brunel University says: "Politics does not have the idealism that it sometimes did and it is more a matter of careerism than idealism." He makes the point that the decline of formal politics may be a welcome reflection of the end of large-scale

ideological conflict (in western countries) associated with the end of the Cold War.

If Labour has worries, so do the Tories. Mr Pinto-Duschinsky has detailed the startling decline of the Conservative Party, which has dropped from 1.3 million in 1974 to between 800,000 and 350,000, the official Central Office estimate for this year.

For all the parties, the glory years have gone for ever. Labour's peak membership was in the early 1950s when it just reached the magical figure of one million sought by Mr Brown (3). Decline was marked in 1960s under the Wilson government. Disillusionment set in among activists, upset at the lack of a socialist agenda; many young people were disgusted with the Wilson government's support for the United States in Vietnam.

**B**UT IT was in the 1980s that numbers really tailed off. Labour suffered as the constituencies were wracked by infighting. When Mr Blair became leader in 1994, membership was only 250,000; until now, he had been proud of his achievement in pushing that up.

Against that background, the fall during recent months to 385,000 may not look disastrous. But surely Labour, still riding high in the polls, should not be falling back now. The Government has years to run, and more critical decisions to take. Still in the flush of victory, Labour might have expected the rise to continue, fuelled not least from those wanting to be associated with success. There are base reasons for being a party member, to do with patronage and preferment. The failure of Labour to benefit from its success suggests the reasons why people will not participate in formal politics are deep-

seated and permanent; to do perhaps with changes in life style and the balance of private and public space in people's lives.

Decline is inevitable. The achievements of the early fifties sprang partly out of the idealism that followed the Second World War, the determination to build a better world. But in those days political party membership also offered a social life, even fun. Labour offered an opportunity to meet like-minded people, the opposite sex and cheap booze. Membership of the Conservative Party was even more of a social investment. Today, people have a much bigger variety of places to meet and be entertained.

Boredom is also a factor. A recent internal party survey shows one of the commonest dislikes among party members is the constituency meeting and its paraphernalia (4). New members can so easily be put off by long-term members deeply imbedded in the rule-book. The word is "anorak".

Minutes of the last meeting. Matters arising. It is a culture based on rules rather than allowing people to express political ideas.

Evidently there are those who have been upset at what they see as the failure of Mr Blair and Mr Brown to deliver a brave new world within twelve months. Anecdotal evidence suggests that activists, though upset by some of the policies, have stayed in the party to fight. Defections have come from people who signed up for the party, paying their subscriptions but not actively involved in knocking on doors.

The Liberal Democrats have a membership of around 100,000, which has remained stable since the ructions of the merger between the Liberals and the Social Democratic Party ten years ago. Membership initially was less than the

combined membership of the two parties. It has a strong participatory membership, with a high number of its members actively involved as councillors.

The Conservatives, under the Asda boss Archie Norman, are reforming their party and this summer will have their first centralised membership system. They have always been coy about releasing figures but after the new system is in place this summer will have no excuse.

**I**S A MASS membership party necessary? Parties need a core of people in each constituency to carry out canvassing, leafleting and conveying people to the polling booths. Computers could soon take over many of these tasks. And IT and the net will also make it easier for the party leader to speak directly to his membership and to hear their views.

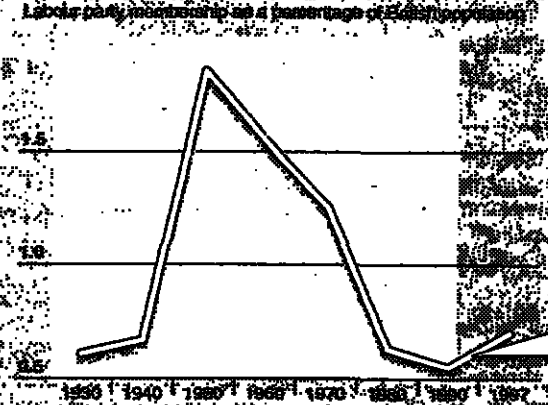
But Labour's internal surveys show, not surprisingly, that the party does better in those constituencies where it has a big contingent of members. There are heartland seats where it will do well whoever is the party candidate but in comparable seats, the party with the healthiest local membership is set to do better.

Participation, says an old argument, is good for democracy. Yet Labour, like the Conservatives, has been guilty in the past of asking members along to constituency meetings just to lick stamps and perform menial tasks, rather than allowing them to engage in full debate. The Labour leadership argues that this is what its recent reforms are designed to achieve: the left counters that the opposite is being achieved.

An American prospect beckons where most "activists" are paid and democratic participation by members in deciding

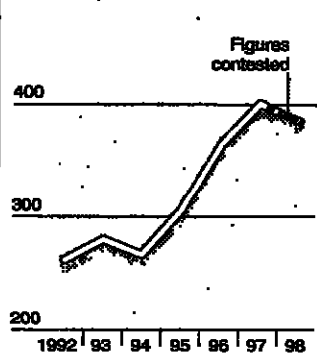
### Party animals: Who joins in Britain

Declining popularity  
Labour party membership as a percentage of electorate



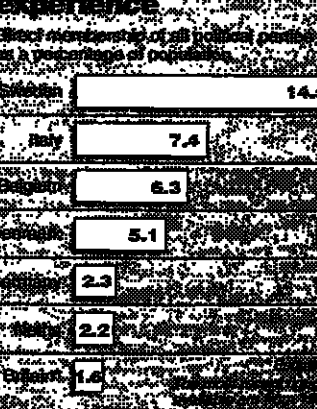
### Membership figures

Thousands



### European political

Direct membership of EU political parties as a percentage of electorate



### party policy is strictly limited.

For the historical trend is against mass parties. If the decline in the Tory Party has been dramatic, Labour's attempts to buck the trend and push its membership upwards now look doomed.

Sources: (1) Party Organizations: A data handbook, edited by

Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair, Sage Publications, 1992  
(2) Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, senior research fellow at Brunel University, at a post-election conference at Essex  
(3) British Political Facts, David Butler and Gareth Butler, Macmillan  
(4) Labour internal document, unpublished.

Graphic sources:  
Party Organizations:  
A data handbook, edited by Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair, party headquarters; Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1998, ONS  
Graphics: Finbar Sheehy  
Research: Matthew Keating  
Ewen MacAskill is the Guardian's Chief Political Correspondent

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# Finance Guardian

Yen slides, billionaires are battered . . . and Marks can't afford to open Down Under

## Japan builds 'bridge' to save banks

Alex Brummer in Tokyo

**J**APAN yesterday moved decisively towards setting up a "bridge bank" designed to take on the bad loans of failing lenders and prevent a series of bankruptcies among leading banks.

The difficulties of the ailing Long Term Credit Bank (LTCB) deepened as its shares plunged a further 44 per cent and speculation intensified that it would be absorbed by other banks, or could become the first customer of the bridge bank.

The urgent need for a solution to Japan's banking crisis was underlined when the yen resumed its slide on the foreign exchanges, falling four yen to 137.84 against the dollar.

Despite the uncertainty sur-

rounding the LTCB, one of the nation's leading corporate lenders, the Tokyo stock market seemed convinced that the authorities were finally ready to act on banking reform. The Nikkei index climbed 41.11 points to 15,309.09.

Tokyo's confidence that the government had decided to "bridge bank" followed a summit between two of the most powerful figures in the country. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, and Koichi Kato, the secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The two agreed on establishing the bank and a facility to take on the bad loans by July 8, four days before Upper House elections.

The nation's two leading politicians clearly have decided that the uncertainty hanging over the banking system must be resolved to assure voters that the economy will not worsen after the election and prevent the yen weakening further on the foreign exchanges. Every time the yen falls, the capital ratios of the Japanese banking system weakens, pushing it near to insolvency.

Despite daily denials from the LTCB that it is in difficulty, speculation persisted that it is desperately trying to offload its loan book to two other banks Dai-ichi Kangyo, or Daiwa Bank, with neither said to be enthusiastic about taking on the job.

The LTCB crisis spelled a baptism of fire for the new Financial Supervisory Agency, which opened for business



Masaharu Hino says his FSA aims to prevent risk spreading throughout the system

PHOTOGRAPH: ERIKO SUGITA

yesterday. Its boss, Masaharu Hino made it clear that the agency was there to "protect" debentures, deposits and the interbank transactions of financial institutions as part of a broader effort to prevent systemic risk spreading throughout the banking system.

One of the agency's first tasks was to order an inspection of 19 of the country's top banks, which have between

them an estimated debt of Yen 77 trillion (\$343.4 billion).

If LTCB were to become the first customer of the bridge bank, because it is unable to forge a private sector merger, it would first be required to use all its available capital to dispose of bad debts. It would then sell off the non-performing loans to the Deposit Insurance Corporation, another new government agency. The LTCB would receive a new in-

fusion of taxpayers' funds and continue to service remaining customers under formal government supervision. In effect, it would be nationalised.

Government officials make no secret of their fears that if the banking problem is not resolved rapidly, the slide of Japan from recession to depression will not be avoided. If the banking problem is not fixed now, the economic measures will not be effective,

said Akira Furukawa, a senior economic adviser to the Prime Minister's office.

Despite Japan's rush to repair its banking system, there is scepticism in Tokyo. Among the expected difficulties are legal barriers to a free market in bad loans, a lack of qualified bank inspectors and a shortage of capital in the system to absorb problem loans without the infusion of new government funds.

### Notebook

## The man with the golden smile



Edited by Lisa Buckingham

**I**T IS always tempting to flirt with the idea that the Fates will not forever favour Richard Branson and his Virgin group. Railways have appeared for some time the most likely candidate to tarnish the gilded smile of Britain's best loved entrepreneur.

Railways attract a unique level of consumer opprobrium and the problems of the west coast and cross-country routes seemed sufficiently ghastly to be immune to the public relations gloss which is the stuff of Virgin's slick organisation.

When the whisper started to go round the City that Branson would be lucky to get the flotation of the rail business off the ground, it seemed Virgin might finally have met its Waterloo.

The timing didn't appear brilliant. City investors are about to be visited by SEC Warburg and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell trying to lure them to buy bonds to refinance London & Continental Railways, the channel link group which would have gone belly up but for a government bailout.

And despite staff turnover in the City, most investment managers can still remember being shafted over Eurotunnel.

A share in most parts of Britain's railways is not this season's fashion accessory. It was easy to imagine Mr Branson being shown the door and forced into the arms of an unlikely suitor. But he has emerged with a remarkable deal from Stagecoach's Brian Souter.

He has secured about £30 million more than a float was expected to raise, and Virgin has ended up with a 51 per cent majority of the company when it started with only 41 per cent.

Importantly, Virgin is shielded from the direct prying of stock market eyes and from the short-term demands of the City on an industry where gains may come only in the longer term.

This round then to the man in the woolly jumper.

### Loosening peg

**T**HE idea that the weekend meeting of G7 finance deputies would produce a surprise package to turn the Japanese economy around was always a little far fetched.

If there was an easy solution to the country's twin banking and economic crises, it would have been staring everyone in the face for years. However, the lack of workarounds didn't prevent the currency markets registering their disappointment at the lack of concrete action.

## £30m secures Sealine buy-in

David Gow

**A** MANAGEMENT buy-in team led by Midlands industrialist Gerard Wainwright yesterday paid £30 million for Sealine International, one of the world's leading makers of luxury motor yachts — based in landlocked Kidderminster.

"It's about as far from the sea as you can get," said Mr Wainwright, who has in recent years operated as a company doctor turning around ailing firms and now intends accelerating Sealine's sales to affluent individuals and cash-rich corporations in the Americas and Europe.

Sealine was originally founded in 1972 as a three-man sub-contracting opera-

After rallying last week when the US Federal Reserve intervened on its behalf, the yen weakened again yesterday against the dollar, putting renewed pressure on other ailing economies in the region to devalue to restore competitiveness.

China was the focus of such fears last week, yesterday it was Hong Kong's turn in the spotlight.

The province's leader, Tung Chee-hwa, said the economic situation there was "very critical". In order to make sure the severity of that position was lost on no-one, Mr Tung chose the rather dramatic route of a live television broadcast to make his point.

Although he vowed to defend the Hong Kong-US dollar peg, that linkage might not survive a full-blown recession that now looks like a racing certainty.

Unfortunately for Britain's hard-pressed manufacturers, the pound has also been caught up in the backwash of the yen's turmoil. The yen's weakness has reinforced sterling's safe-haven status and, combined with expectations of another interest rate rise, helped power the currency back through the DM3 barrier.

If there is a consolation in this (apart, of course, from those holiday-makers just about to set off for the Continent) it is that the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will presumably think twice before raising interest rates again.

When it raised rates earlier this month, it cited the inflationary dangers of the falling pound and rising average earnings.

With one of those two threats removed, the MPC will be hard-pressed to mount a defence of another increase at the current level of 7.5 per cent.

### Maxwell's ghost

**A**NOTHER corporate governance code beckons and still so little to show for it.

As the Stock Exchange dots the 'i' on the corporate governance combined code (an amalgam of Cadbury, Greenbury and Hampel) it seems voting levels at annual meetings have dropped, according to a survey by the Manifest proxy agency.

That is despite all the belly-aching from Margaret Beckett about how much importance is placed on corporate governance.

There should be no surprise, however. The corporate governance crusade was born of business collapses such as Polly Peck and Maxwell, companies borne high on the bubble of the 1980s but which crashed to earth with recession. In today's relatively temperate economic climate the need for corporate governance vigilance seems less compelling.

But the Government and City would be wrong to allow the debate to cool. The need for rigorous boardroom standards may once again be just around the corner.

## M&S ditches Australia plan

Roger Cowe

**M**ARKS & SPENCER yesterday abandoned plans to launch in Australia, saying the slump in the country's currency would make it impossible to sell clothes exported from Britain at acceptable prices that fitted its value-for-money reputation.

Australia has been particularly hard hit since 60 per cent of its exports go to countries in the region. Exports to South-east Asia so far this year are a quarter below last year's level. As a result, the Australian dollar has plunged by a quarter over the past 16 months to a 12-year low.

Paul Smith, the M&S Asia Pacific chief executive, said yesterday: "We have concluded that opening Marks & Spencer stores in Australia under the current economic conditions is no longer viable. The recent change in the value of the Australian dollar has increased the cost of imported merchandise and selling prices would therefore have to be higher."

M&S had reached an agreement with a local retailer, Just Jeans Group, to open a Marks & Spencer franchise network, beginning with stores in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as part

of the British retailer's international expansion.

Mr Smith stressed that the partners hoped to revive opening plans if the Australian dollar makes a recovery. He said: "We remain confident in the long-term potential of the Australian market and we will be monitoring the situation closely to decide on a suitable time to open stores. Australia is still very much part of Marks & Spencer's strategy."

International expansion has been a key part of the British retailer's strategy during the 1990s, and it began researching entry into Australia in 1996. A franchise agreement was struck with Just Jeans last November, since when the two companies have been looking for sites and drawing up detailed plans to sell M&S clothing in stores operated by Just Jeans.

But the Asian slump has hit the group's profits in its wholly-owned Hong Kong franchise and damaged its franchise business elsewhere in Asia.

M&S is still committed to the franchise concept, which has seen 85 stores bearing the famous British logo spring up throughout Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The group is on the verge of making a decision about entry into the South American market.

## Crisis culls list of Asia's super rich

Mark Tran and Mark Atkinson

**I**T HAS been a bad year for the ordinary billionaire in the street. After 18 months of corporate crashes, banking nerves, falling currencies and rising unemployment, only now are the true individual victims of the Asian crisis being revealed.

According to the latest rich list in Forbes magazine, the number of billionaires in the region was just 44 this year, down from 56 last year and 119 in 1996.

That issue had trumpeted the East's new wealth. "It's Asia's turn," Forbes blared last year, getting swept up with Asia's triumphalism. Two years later, it is back to more familiar ground, with Rupert Murdoch, the globe-trotting

media tycoon, as Forbes' favourite billionaire. As for Asia, well there is no more talk of the Asian century. Thailand, for example, has seen its billionaires wiped out.

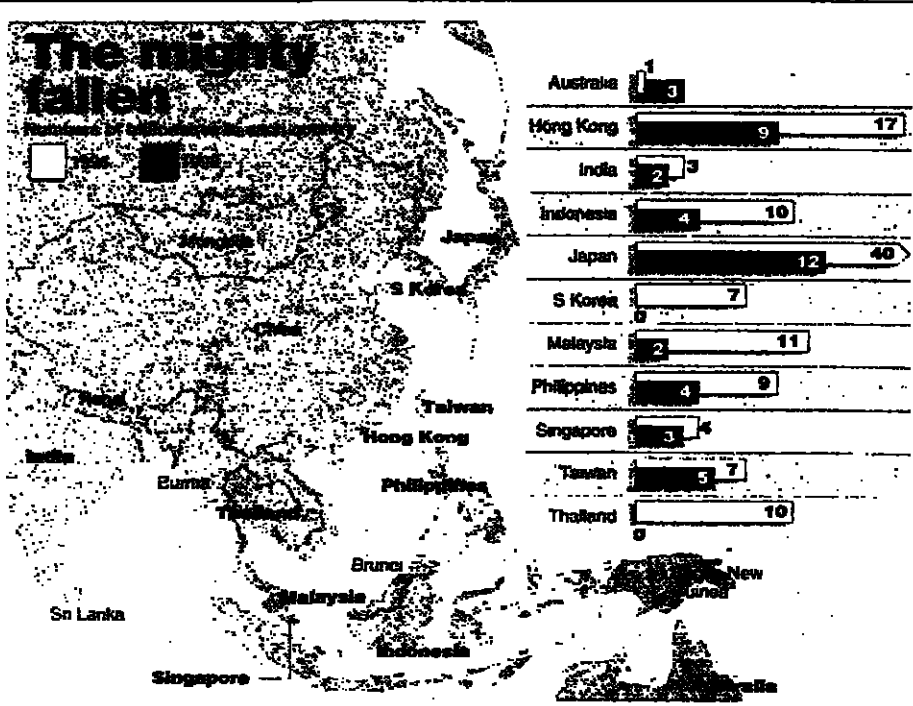
Asia's richest man remains the Sultan of Brunei, whose wealth comes from oil and gas. His fortune is estimated at \$36 billion, down \$2 billion from last year. The biggest decline was by former Indonesian President Suharto, forced to resign last month in the face of massive public protests. His wealth

dwindled by three-quarters to \$4 billion and his fortune can be expected to shrink as his family's control over vast state enterprises is reduced.

The richest man in Asia who works for a living now is Lee Shau Kee, owner of Henderson Land Development Corporation in Hong Kong. The collapse in property prices shaved nearly \$2 billion off the 70-year-old property tycoon's wealth. He is now worth \$12.7 billion, making him ninth-richest in the world instead of fourth. Cheung

Kong (Holdings) and Hutchison Whampoa chairman Li Ka-shing, another Hong Kong resident, is Asia's second-richest private citizen. His overall ranking rose to 13th from 15th yet he saw his fortune fall 9 per cent to \$10 billion.

Tsai wan Lin and family members of Taiwan were next in Asia. The founder of Cathay Life Insurance and the Lin-Yuan Group, who got his start behind a fruit and vegetable stand in Taipei is worth about \$8.5 billion, down 25 per cent from last year.



## Phoney deals of 'development fever' take toll

John Gittings in Hong Kong

**B**EIJING has closed down a leading provincial bank, shaking China's financial system. The Hainan Development Bank was ordered to cease operations while its debts are being guaranteed to avoid panic.

The Bank is one of a select

group in China's development zones which was given considerable latitude in the boom years. It is based on the island of Hainan, which has long been known for financial scams and sharp operations.

The People's Bank of China, operating with another national bank, has taken over its liabilities and is investigating its performance. The

capital and interest owed to all "legitimate" investors on the island and from outside will be protected, the People's Bank said on Sunday.

Chinese financial circles are particularly concerned because the Hainan Development Bank ranks only just below the four national banks in status. Beijing's action is intended to send a sharp signal

that it will intervene promptly to prevent a collapse of confidence.

Hainan's troubles are a result of years of "development fever" that swept China when the late Deng Xiaoping kickstarted economic reforms after the Tiananmen Square massacre. Many unscrupulous entrepreneurs, particularly property companies,

traded in land that technically belonged to the state.

There followed a spate of insolvencies and last December Hainan Development Bank was ordered by the island's authorities to assume responsibility for several debt-ridden credit co-operatives in the provincial capital of Haikou. These had offered high interest rates in 1993-1994 and

the capital was used to invest in risky property deals.

Although Beijing closed down ten financial institutions last year, the collapse of this leading commercial bank is regarded as much more serious. It is also being argued that the central authorities cannot continue to take responsibility for all bad debts in the provinces.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.889	Germany 2.806	Malaysia 6.88	Singapore 2.8
Austria 20.46	Greece 33.25	Netherlands 3.26	Spain 166.50
Belgium 39.76	Hong Kong 12.51	New Zealand 3.15	Sweden 244.47
Canada 2.37	India 70.81	Norway 12.30	Switzerland 2.0
Cyprus 0.83	Ireland 1.142	Portugal 282.82	Taiwan 25.12
Denmark 11.12	Israel 6.12	Saudi Arabia 8.13	USA 1.8103
Finland 8.92	Italy 2.870		
France 9.729			

Supplied by Reuters (banking rates, actual and notional)

صكنا من الامل





Wimbledon 98



Henman to the fore... Britain's No. 2 in first-round action during his five-set thriller yesterday against Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HEWITT

# Nervy Henman at full stretch

Stephen Bierley sees a stubborn Czech come perilously close to bouncing out Britain's error-prone No.2 at the very first hurdle

**T**IM HENMAN strained his nerves and those of his many supporters to the limit yesterday before winning his opening match 7-6, 7-5, 5-7, 4-6, 6-2 against Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic on No.1 Court.

Novak arrived in London only yesterday morning, having won a second-division tournament on clay the previ-

ous day. He managed only a little practice before facing the British No.2 but rose to the challenge to stretch the match beyond the three-hour mark.

The Czech, ranked No. 71 in the world and with only one senior career singles title to his name, has never progressed beyond the second round of any Grand Slam event and has won only one

match here. But suddenly he appeared as if a giant in front of the nerve-racked and struggling Henman.

Two successive Wimbledon quarter-finals had led Henman to suggest he expected to reach the final four this year. Such expectations appeared to drag at his feet like diver's boots. At the end he sank down on his chair and gazed, tight-faced, into the crowd. It

was an almighty fright for him and it will have taken a physical and mental toll.

This was exactly the sort of start he did not need, for his physique has always been suspect over the course of a two-week tournament.

Novak, like Henman a 29-year-old, was understandably off-key having been playing on a different surface some 24 hours earlier; it was less easy to excuse Henman's multitude of errors. He can only hope that he has expunged them from his system in one go.

Initially Henman's nerves appeared to be under control as he easily broke Novak's serve in the fourth game of the first set to take a 3-1 lead. The crowd relaxed, sat back and waited for a comfortable home win.

Then, at 4-3 and leading 30-15, Henman served two dreadful double faults. He scrambled to deuce but an over-hit backhand volley, immediately followed by a forehand-volley error, gave Novak the initiative.

Several times the crowd let out groans of disappointment as Henman either netted volleys or hit his always vulnerable forehand long. Home support is clearly an advantage for Henman and Rusedski but the crowd's frustration when things are not going well can have a detrimental effect.

Both players held their serve to 6-6 and Henman, despite another double fault, kept his game together the better to win the tie-break 7-4. The roar of relief was huge.

The grass courts are always a little slower in the first week, unless the weather is exceptionally hot, and this was an advantage to Novak, giving him that little longer to adjust his shots and generally acclimatise.

Henman nosed ahead in the second set only to be reeled in again by the persistent Czech. However, given Novak's weekend exertions, the match appeared to there on a plate for Briton when he won the second set. Surely his opponent would tire? No, came the emphatic answer.

Again Novak went a break down, as in the two previous

sets but this time he was to come back with a vengeance. The strain was etched across Henman's face; time and again he visibly urged himself on, driving himself to the full against an opponent who was as obdurate as a limpet.

But Novak was well and truly getting into his stride, with the clay of Zagreb shaken off his shoes and the feel of the grass getting sweeter and sweeter. He took the fourth set and by then Henman's alarm bells were ringing doubles and triples. This was a fine mess he had got himself into and the odds against getting out of it did not appear to be short.

However a vital break in the fifth and final set was just enough. Novak's understandable tiredness eventually catching up with him. But Henman was white-faced at the end. He knew how poorly he had played.

Earlier the first men's seed fell when, to the surprise of all but the most optimistic Spaniard Alex Corretja, the No.10, went out to Justin Gimelstob of the United States.

Corretja, beaten by Carlos Moya in the French Open final earlier this month, finds it exceptionally difficult to adjust his game to grass, although Felix Mantilla did reach the second round.

Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No.7 seed, lost to Mark Philippoussis on Centre Court. The huge-serving Australian had been so disillusioned with his form at Queen's that he threatened to pack his bags and give Wimbledon a miss. How Kafelnikov must have wished he had.

## Italy versus Austria

(It'll be a game of two halves... and possibly a slice of pizza.)



Nastro Azzurro would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's numero uno beer, you can imagine who we hope will have had a belly full by the final whistle tonight. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Peroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.



Thumbs down for Kournikova

**T**HE All England Club, the tabloids and the paparazzi alike were left cursing their luck yesterday when the picturesque Anna Kournikova pulled out of Wimbledon through injury. Russia's 17-year-old prodigy (above) fell and strained her right thumb in

beating Steffi Graf at Eastbourne on Thursday. On Sunday, she saw a specialist who confirmed ligament damage. Her place in the draw is taken by Lilia Osterloh of the United States.

Wimbledon, pages 14-15

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Old flames flickering ... Steffi Graf, left, and Pete Sampras eased through their first-round assignments at Wimbledon yesterday. 'I don't take for granted just coming back here,' said a relieved if tearful Graf.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE CALN KIN

**P**ETE SAMPRAS and Steffi Graf each began with a straight-sets victory. It was important for both of them. Wimbledon's two legendary stalwarts, already indelibly in gold-leaf on the all-time roll of honour, confirmed their hunger for further laurels, Graf breaking down to weep poignant tears as testament to her happiness at being back in her favourite kingdom.

"I don't take for granted the wonder of just coming back here," she wept, joy and sadness mixed after her extended absence from the game through various injuries in-

cluding the serious knee operation which caused the seven times champion to miss the 1997 tournament. "No question, just walking back on Centre Court to that warm reception was what I have yearned for," she said before touchingly breaking down again. She admitted that "two or three times I have thought of quitting the game completely, less than two months ago I was certain I would have".

Following each other on Centre Court, both luminaries eased themselves in with comparative comfort. Sampras is going for his fifth title, Graf for her eighth. On a blistering afternoon, under taunt-

ing skies out of which the sun occasionally chuckled benignly, Sampras swept aside the Slovak Dominik Hrbati by 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

The Wimbledon programme noted that Hrbati's surname suggested "a bad hand at scrabble"; adding that the name translates in his own language as "hunchback". He was, indeed, always bowed and cowering in the face of the pale that Sampras, as ever, was looking to stir across the net. Even as he searched for length and line, no end of shots passed Hrbati at an almost frightening intensity and velocity. Perhaps this game will die when the linesmen's trade union say they cannot see the ball any more.

In their only previous match, at last year's Australian Open, Hrbati took Sampras to five sets. Of course it was mighty different from

Melbourne, said an aggrieved Sampras. "That was an immensely hot day and Dominik's comfortable surface. Today, this was on my surface." Indeed, he did not have to add, his empire.

"This is the grass where I make my living. It is the big-

on the ball and even a series of double faults bothered him not a jot. "At this stage I need to mix up my serves, work at my second serve, so I was trying a few things. The second service is what wins you this tournament, I'm telling you." And he should know.

so unlike the famed traulein of old but understandable when one realises what a demoralising and painful year she has had. "Last June Wimbledon started and I was lying flat on my bed just a week out of the operating theatre. On the eve of Wimbledon I was immensely upset I remember but, once it began, the missing it did not seem as bad as I thought it was going to. Perhaps I was too busy in my rehab.

did not turn out that way but so locked into the memory is the fun over the years of regular first-day disasters, when a big name no sooner says Hello than Goodbye, that it is surprising to realise that the last men's singles champion to be tipped out of his carriage without ceremony on the opening afternoon the following year was the beguiling Latin touch player Manuel Santana, up-ended more than three decades ago in the 1967 championships.

the 1998 Wimbledon was the first one open to professionals (playing for total prize-money that year of \$26,000). The Australian Roy Emerson, before he had turned professional to give Santana his chance, had been the dominant amateur and chalked up the all-time record of 12 Grand Slam titles. Sampras has 10. He is even confident of levelling with Emerson after this fortnight and the US Open later this summer.

"It remains a very realistic challenge for me," he said. "It is definitely on, I can feel it. Winning here and then in New York is most certainly how I visualise my year. For certain I will be giving it my best shot." If the greybeards at courtside say Sampras's heart and full concentration are not in it any more, there was little evidence of that yesterday.

She seemed dithering, shy, so unlike the famed fraulein of old

gest tournament in the game. If you can't get 'up' for Wimbledon you won't do so anywhere. For weeks, months, I have been keyed up to be here at two o'clock on the opening Monday. I know exactly how Centre Court plays on the opening Monday, that old familiar greasiness."

**Sampras looked very much**

Just as routine on the scoreboard, but far more so emotionally, was Graf's 6-3, 6-1 work-out against Gala Leon Garcia, the 24-year-old from Barcelona, the circuit's 49th leading lady. The German began gingerly in every way, and no wonder, serving and volleying with dithering uncertainty. She seemed shy.

"All I know is that it remains my favourite place of all. It is part of me." And after wiping away a few more tears, she said: "For me it is still uphill all the way; I have just got to get the muscles to react like they used to." They seem to be getting there.

Both Graf and Sampras might for their different, well-logged reasons have been vulnerable this first afternoon. It

**Author's Singles**  
**Holder P. Sampras (US, 1)**  
**First round**  
 (1) **USA** vs. (2) **USA** (Schiffert) (Fri) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (3) **USA** vs. (4) **USA** (Garcia) (Sat) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (5) **USA** vs. (6) **USA** (Henderson) (Sun) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (7) **USA** vs. (8) **USA** (Henderson) (Mon) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (9) **USA** vs. (10) **USA** (Henderson) (Tue) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (11) **USA** vs. (12) **USA** (Henderson) (Wed) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (13) **USA** vs. (14) **USA** (Henderson) (Thu) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
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 (77) **USA** vs. (78) **USA** (Henderson) (Mon) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (79) **USA** vs. (80) **USA** (Henderson) (Tue) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (81) **USA** vs. (82) **USA** (Henderson) (Wed) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (83) **USA** vs. (84) **USA** (Henderson) (Thu) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (85) **USA** vs. (86) **USA** (Henderson) (Fri) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (87) **USA** vs. (88) **USA** (Henderson) (Sat) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (89) **USA** vs. (90) **USA** (Henderson) (Sun) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (91) **USA** vs. (92) **USA** (Henderson) (Mon) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (93) **USA** vs. (94) **USA** (Henderson) (Tue) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (95) **USA** vs. (96) **USA** (Henderson) (Wed) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (97) **USA** vs. (98) **USA** (Henderson) (Thu) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (99) **USA** vs. (100) **USA** (Henderson) (Fri) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (101) **USA** vs. (102) **USA** (Henderson) (Sat) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (103) **USA** vs. (104) **USA** (Henderson) (Sun) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (105) **USA** vs. (106) **USA** (Henderson) (Mon) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (107) **USA** vs. (108) **USA** (Henderson) (Tue) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
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 (125) **USA** vs. (126) **USA** (Henderson) (Thu) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (127) **USA** vs. (128) **USA** (Henderson) (Fri) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (129) **USA** vs. (130) **USA** (Henderson) (Sat) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (131) **USA** vs. (132) **USA** (Henderson) (Sun) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (133) **USA** vs. (134) **USA** (Henderson) (Mon) 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3  
 (135)

**Women's Singles**  
**Holder: M Hingis (Switz, 1).**  
**First round:**  
 A Vesna (Ven) bt S Cacic (US) 7-5, 4-6,  
 3-1; M Maggioni (Slovak) bt A Praetzer (US)  
 7-5, 6-2, 6-4; M Diaz Oliva (Arg) bt P  
 Miraz (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; K Boagart (Neth) bt  
 Saito (Japan) 3-6, 7-2, 6-1; A J  
 Oetzel (SA, 8) bt K A Guse (Aust) 6-2,  
 2-6, 6-2; S Grande (It) bt F Li (China) 6-1, 6-4;  
 Tataronova (Rus) bt M Elvonen (Fin) 7-5, 7-6,

(A) 3-5, 6-11, 12-13 *Stenostomus* (Japan) (b) *S. Pictus* (Aur) 3-5, 6-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23, 24-25, 26-27, 28-29, 30-31, 32-33, 34-35, 36-37, 38-39, 40-41, 42-43, 44-45, 46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55, 56-57, 58-59, 60-61, 62-63, 64-65, 66-67, 68-69, 70-71, 72-73, 74-75, 76-77, 78-79, 80-81, 82-83, 84-85, 86-87, 88-89, 90-91, 92-93, 94-95, 96-97, 98-99, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660-661, 662-663, 664-665, 666-667, 668-669, 670-671, 672-673, 674-675, 676-677, 678-679, 680-681, 682-683, 684-685, 686-687, 688-689, 690-691, 692-693, 694-695, 696-697, 698-699, 700-701, 702-703, 704-705, 706-707, 708-709, 710-711, 712-713, 714-715, 716-717, 718-719, 720-721, 722-723, 724-725, 726-727, 728-729, 730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745, 746-747, 748-749, 750-751, 752-753, 754-755, 756-757, 758-759, 760-761, 762-763, 764-765, 766-767, 768-769, 770-771, 772-773, 774-775, 776-777, 778-779, 780-781, 782-783, 784-785, 786-787, 788-789, 790-791, 792-793, 794-795, 796-797, 798-799, 800-801, 802-803, 804-805, 806-807, 808-809, 810-811, 812-813, 814-815, 816-817, 818-819, 820-821, 822-823, 824-825, 826-827, 828-829, 830-831, 832-833, 834-835, 836-837, 838-839, 840-841, 842-843, 844-845, 846-847, 848-849, 850-851, 852-853, 854-855, 856-857, 858-859, 860-861, 862-863, 864-865, 866-867, 868-869, 870-871, 872-873, 874-875, 876-877, 878-879, 880-881, 882-883, 884-885, 886-887, 888-889, 890-891, 892-893, 894-895, 896-897, 898-899, 900-901, 902-903, 904-905, 906-907, 908-909, 910-911, 912-913, 914-915, 916-917, 918-919, 920-921, 922-923, 924-925, 926-927

The British No. 2 Tim Hannan was down to play the third match of the day on Court One and there were fears that his tie could clash with the football game in France.

Two years ago up to 3,000 supporters were able to follow England's fortunes in Euro 96 on the giant screen in the Ayrall Park practice area. But officials were concerned that noise from such a crowd could distract players on the new Court One opened last year.

**YOU'L**

## Richard Jago sees the male also-rans of the Brit Pack thoroughly outshone

**I**T IS not easy being Britain's other No. 1. Last year Sam Smith was in trouble with the Lawn Tennis Association for saying that without Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski Britain's men would be no better placed than the women. Yesterday by scoring her first Wimbledon win in six attempts, she suggested that the men would be worse off than the women.

There were, however, reasons to be positive about Smith's 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 success over Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, a French teenager 40 places higher in the world rankings.

The victory should carry Smith to a new career high, still further into the top 100 which she re-entered last week. It also showed the 21-year-old that she had the wit to give a talented opponent plenty of what she did not like, and it proved she had the resilience to pick herself up after letting slip a lead of a set and 3-0 in the second.

wouldn't have been able to do that," said Smith, who injected slyce at disconcerting moments into the rallies and projected far more first serves into court than Sidot. "I told myself to come on and not to be a loser."

But though Smith is quietly picking off her goals and now has a place in the top 50 in her sights, she knows she is likely to continue to live in the considerable shadow of Tim and Greg. Britain's other men would probably be elad even to do that.

Martin Lee, Mark Petchey and Danny Sapsford all lost in the first round, suggesting that the British female also-runs are not within sight of the big two. Yet all three had their moments yesterday: Petchey suggested he might have won, and Lee certainly should have.

The former world junior No. 1 had a point to win in straight sets against the Italian, while Mariele

**Bracciali** when he led 6-5 in the third set tie-break with both his serves to follow. But a moderate second delivery was punished by a fierce backhand return, and after falling to capture the next point as well Lee fell like a punctured balloon to a 4-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2 defeat.

Earlier Sapsford had been within a couple of points of taking the first set before going down in three straight sets against the away left-handedness of Hamman's Australian Open conqueror, Jerome Golmard. Fetchey played so fine a second set in a four-set loss to the top-30 Swede Magnus Gustafsson that some wondered why the 27-year-old is considering making this his last Wimbledon.

Wimbledon. There was, however, a good win for Louise Latimer, in her first Wimbledon, against the much-photographed and promising young German Jana Kandarr and an encouraging one for Karen Cross, whose victory over her friend and fellow squad member Jo Ward revived hopes of a run similar to last year's

But Petchey's defeat was the one which highlighted the British predicament. He has had 11 years on the circuit, but only three of them on the main tour and is beginning to wonder if he will ever get back on to it again.

"The consistency of Greg and Tim is phenomenal. Those two are streets ahead and it will be a while, if at all, before the current crop of players can get near them," he said.

"We have some good initiatives to help build for the future, although some of them need fine tuning, and we definitely need to raise the profile of the sport."

Petchey may be able to do that — but probably not with his racket. He is considering the possibility of retiring to become a television commentator.

● Two other British women, Lorna Woodroffe of Surrey and Julie Pullin of Sussex, were also beaten in the first round: Pullin losing 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to Nana Miyagi of Japan, Woodroffe 6-4, 6-1 to Janet Lee of Taiwan.



**Sam the ma'am . . . Smith celebrates** PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX LIVESEY

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## Cricket

Mike Selvey on the pros and cons of putting the opposition in after the decision has backfired on Cronje, then Stewart this season

## Caught by the pitch and toss

IF THERE is one thing more certain than the capacity of Alec Stewart's trousers to absorb the moisture of a damp pitch, it is the prospect of the captain who wins the toss next week for the third Test at Old Trafford, poking his thumb into a damp pitch, surveying the low blanket of dark cloud and sniffing the humidity before turning to his opposite number and saying: "No thank you very much, we'll have a knock." Think about putting them in, as the old-timers used to say, but then bat anyway.

If West Indies — who, with their tremendous firepower, fielded first regardless of the conditions simply to assert themselves — are taken out of the equation, the success rate from putting the opposition in is not good. Twice already in this series, the captains appear to have got it wrong.

At Edgbaston, Hansie Cronje called correctly, asked England to bat and saw them score 462, a potentially match-winning total. Then at Lord's, Stewart decided to put South Africa in and this time it was they who turned things on their head, making 360. England did well not to lose by an innings.

Yet how wrong was either of them on the evidence as presented. In his definitive book "The Art of Cricket" to be republished next month — Sir Donald Bradman suggests that the end result does not necessarily mean a wrong decision was made in the first instance.

"History," he says, "mostly records its verdict according to the result of an action and not according to whether it was correct by all known factors at the time. He might also have mentioned that, perversely, a captain is less likely to get pilloried if he bats first and is bowled out cheaply than if he fields first and gets caught."

So what of the series so far? At Birmingham, the batsmen have disagreed with Cronje's decision to field first. Had England won the toss, they would have followed suit. In the event the ball lagged around alarmingly, the South African bowlers performed abjectly and England rode their luck. The captain cannot legislate



To bowl or not to bowl... both captains look confident at Lord's last week before Alec Stewart, left, asked Hansie Cronje to bat

CLIVE MASON

for that when he tosses the coin and the chances are that, had England bowled first, they would have dismissed South Africa cheaply.

Lord's may not have been quite so clear-cut. Certainly the groundsman's preparations had been hampered by the weather and as a result the pitch was always going to start damp, aiding the seam bowlers. Against that, though, was the prospect of some good weather which, when it dried out the surface and the indentations left by the ball, could make batting difficult in the fourth innings.

As the match nearly reached the fifth day nor made much progress into the final innings, one can only hypothesise.

But Cronje has said that he would have batted first, although even that has to be taken with a pinch of salt such is the ideology that goes on to gain psychological points. Keith Fletcher, for instance, was a master at making the opposing captain feel he had blundered even before a ball was bowled.

It is undeniable, though, that South Africa were 46 for four after 18 overs and would have been 58 for five had Mike Atherton held a sharp chance at third slip offered by Jonty Rhodes when he had 10.

Had that catch been taken, South Africa might very well not have made 100 such was the dominance of the bowling.

Rather than Stewart's decision to field first, it was that miss and Cork's no-ball two overs later from which Rhodes was caught at slip — by Atherton again — that were the decisive moments of the game. Just as with England after they had been denied a win by the weather, the South Africans now have the high ground. But they remain one-all in duft performances.

For the next Test the selectors must do some hard thinking. Nine Tests have now passed since Darren Gough

last bowled for England and he is sorely missed. The hope has to be that his broken finger will have mended in time for Manchester, where presumably he would replace Dean Headley.

Angus Fraser, however, has taken only 12 wickets since his triumph in Trinidad and, although he exerts pressure, he has not looked like running through the opposition even in helpful conditions. The role of Mark Ealham has also under threat and Ben Holliday, if he is playing anything like his best, must be given his head.

In the absence of Mark Butcher the choice of Steve

James as Atherton's opening partner was a dumb one, with the selectors making the elementary mistake of being seduced by "runs in the book".

The fact that he had not been selected before despite his prolific scoring for Glamorgan over three seasons must give a clue to the selectors' innermost doubts.

It is not hindsight that says he is flawed at this level and both Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock exploited the fact mercilessly. David Graveney and his co-selectors have generally been on the ball but on this occasion they took an easy option and it cost England dear.

## Rugby League

## Gateshead in the mood for a life of Reilly

Andy Wilson

MALCOLM REILLY is poised to swap Newcastle, New South Wales for Newcastle, Tyne and Wear if Gateshead's application for a 1999 Super League franchise is accepted. Shane Richardson, the Australian leading the North-East bid who addressed the chief executives of the 12 Super League clubs yesterday, said that he already had a coach and a number of top-class Australian players signed up. Richardson was unwilling to give details until a decision has been made on the Gateshead bid, but it is understood that talks with Reilly are at an advanced stage.

The former Great Britain coach will leave Australia at the end of the season after guiding the Knights to their first Premiership last September. Richardson returns home today, and is expected to conclude a deal with Reilly within two weeks — a franchise. A decision is due on August 17 but Richardson has urged the clubs to give him the go-ahead sooner.

Halifax hope that Kelvin Skerrett will sign up for the remainder of the season despite reports of interest from Bradford. The 34-year-old prop has been playing on short-term deals since joining Halifax last year, and the current agreement expires on July 5.

Bradford are desperate for forward cover after a string of serious injuries, but the Bulls coach Matthew Elliott denied knowledge of any move yesterday. Skerrett, who was appointed as the Wales captain last week, faces a disciplinary hearing on Thursday following his dismissal at Leeds last Friday night, and a ban of four matches or more would rule him out of the international against Emerging Nations on July 12.

Wigan have agreed a two-year contract with the 1994 Kangaroo tourist Greg Ikin, raising the question of which of their five overseas players will be released to return to their clubs. The contracts of Henry Paul, Robbie McCormack and Mark Bell all expire at the end of this season, and Paul is tipped to return to his native Auckland.

## Sport in brief

## Boxing

Jane Couch yesterday became the first woman to be granted a professional fighter's licence by the British Board of Control. The move signals a new era in Britain, with Couch already attracting interest from several promoters. It ends a three-year fight for recognition which led the 27-year-old welterweight world champion to take the board to a tribunal for sexual discrimination after her original application was rejected.

## Motor Rallies

Colin McRae won the China Rally by some two minutes despite constant mechanical problems with his Subaru, writes David Williams. Overheating threatened to send the Scot, and he finished with damaged wrist ligaments because of faulty steering.

## Ice Hockey

Superleague has appointed the Great Britain coach Peter Woods as its director of sport, writes Vic Batchelder. The former Basingstoke Bison coach succeeds Richard Bopprey who resigned in April to join the new London club. Woods will continue as the national coach.

## Sailing

Peter Chatterbox's Spirit of England was first to finish the fourth leg of the Round Britain and Ireland Race, reaching Lowestoft after the 470 miles from Lerwick at 6.17am yesterday, writes Bob Fisher. Muscat Performance Partners came in 10th and the 40-foot trimaran FPC Greenway was third. The 305-mile final leg to Plymouth starts tomorrow.

## Cycling

Chris Boardman won the fifth stage of the Tour of Catalonia in Girona, Spain, to retain the leader's yellow jersey.

## Racing

## Lingfield jumps plan under fire

Chris Hawkins

THEY race on the Flat at Lingfield Park this afternoon but one thing is certain: the jumping and all-weather racing at the track are apparently numbered.

Plans by Arena Leisure, owners of Lingfield, to transfer jumping features to Folkestone and all-weather racing to a new course at Thurrock have predictably proved controversial.

It is down to the British Horseracing Board to sanction the proposals as the future allocation group will meet on July 14 to discuss the switching of eight jump meetings to Folkestone making a total of 17 at the Kent course in the winter of 1999.

Lingfield, despite its susceptibility to heavy ground, is popular with the jumping fraternity who fear their livelihood is gradually being eroded — Nottingham has already closed its jump course and Windsor wants to follow suit.

They have real worries for the strength of all-weather racing and the value of its day-to-day prize money, which often exceeds that offered at jump meetings. It is a serious threat and the BHB already has applications for seven new racecourses incorporating all-weather tracks.

Clearly few, if any, of these applications have much chance of success because of financial limitations but the

BHB must not make that the sole criterion.

Racing's administrators must make a conscious stand to protect jumping which is a vital part of our sporting heritage.

If the application of Arena Leisure for a new all-weather course at Thurrock were to be given the go-ahead, Lingfield would be developed as a training centre for 300 horses. No racing would take place there except on the Flat in the summer.

"We're looking to make Lingfield a training centre and high-quality turf track, restore its charm, its country, leafy Lingfield image," said Geoff Stickels, clerk of the course and Arena Leisure's racing director.

Stickels refutes suggestions that closing Lingfield as a jump course is the end of the wedge for the winter game.

"Folkestone is our other track and we are prepared to spend a lot of money redeveloping it," he said. "The ground there is much better for jumping than Lingfield where two seasons ago we lost three of our eight fixtures because of waterlogging."

Walter Swinburn is to step in for the ride on Aidan O'Brien's Saratoga Springs in Sunday's Irish Derby. Mick Kinane, who would have ridden the horse, misses the race following a four-day ban imposed on him by the Royal Ascot stewards last Friday.

## Maridpour and Arctic Owl head betting for Northumberland Plate

APPROXES have topped their ante-post book on Saturday's Northumberland Plate at Newcastle and make Maridpour and Arctic Owl 7-2 joint favourites to follow at Mithras at 8-1 and Maveaux and Rainbow Frontier at 10-1, writes Chris Hawkins.

Arctic Owl, trained by James Fanshawe, beat subsequent winner Top Cees by 14 lengths at York recently (incurring only a 3lb penalty) while Maridpour was a short-head winner of the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot.

"The Showcase Race initiative introduced at the beginning of the Flat season

to boost off-course betting turnover seems to be working and figures released by the bookmakers' trade organisation BOLA indicate an overall rise of eight per cent on 1997 figures.

"We are delighted that the initiative is producing results," said Paul Greeves, the BHB's director of racing. "Its prime target is those quiet weekdays which in the past lacked a feature race."

"The £10,000 handicaps transmitted on SIS but not on terrestrial television have produced an average increase of 11 per cent. Taken as a whole the figure is eight per cent."

## Beverley card

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.15	Three Green Leaves
2.45	Yellows
3.15	Indefatigable
3.45	Robur
4.15	Foale Lady
4.45	Arctura (nb)
5.15	Catch Me

Right-handed track of 1m2 with 260 turn-in. Testing 5/4 course which rises throughout. Good, Good to Firm, Good in places. All-weather. Standard, Turf. Denotes blunders. Drawn High numbers best. 3-45 Tonnage. Blunders or winners first time. None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps

2.15	POLYGON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 1)	1m 2f £2,235 (10 declared)
1.15	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

2.45	REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CLAIMING STAKES	1m 2f £2,235 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

3.15	113TH YEAR OF THE WATT MEMORIAL HANDICAP	1m 2f £3,326 (14 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

3.45	UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLNSHIRE & HUMBERS HANDICAP	1m 2f £2,555 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

4.15	PHOENIX PARK AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 3YO	1m 10f £3,465 (7 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

4.45	HILL BUSINESS SCHOOL APPRENTICES' MAIDEN HANDICAP	1m 2f £2,216 (14 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

5.15	POLYGON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 2)	1m 10f £2,235 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

5.45	POLYGON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 2)	1m 10f £2,235 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

## Lingfield Jackpot meeting with form guide

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.00	Arctura (nb) 5-12
2.30	Yellows (nb) 5-12
3.00	Zola Power
3.30	Madame Jones (nap)
4.00	Mr. Marmalade (nb)
4.30	In The Sun

Turf course. Straight 710yds course with left-hand loop of about 11m attached, providing 41 turn-in. Sharp track with downhill run into straight. All-weather course. Equipped, left-handed course laid out inside turf track and only 11m round. No straight. Turf. Denotes blunders. Drawn High numbers best. 3-00 Tonnage. Blunders or winners first time. None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

2.00	COWDEN APPRENTICES' HANDICAP	1m 2f £1,725 (13 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

2.30	HENRY STREET MAIDEN FILLES' STAKES 3YO	1m 2f £3,720 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

3.00	TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO	1m 2f £3,720 (10 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

3.30	SHREWS CLASSIFIED STAKES	1m (All-weather) £2,221 (8 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

4.00	SHREWS CLASSIFIED STAKES	1m (All-weather) £2,221 (8 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

4.30	CHAMPAGNE JACQUART FILLES' HANDICAP 3YO	1m 10f £3,525 (7 declared)
1.15	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
1.45	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.15	Indefatigable (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
2.45	Robur (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.15	Foale Lady (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
3.45	Arctura (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.15	Catch Me (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
4.45	Yellows (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell
5.15	Three Green Leaves (nb) 5-12	J. Fennell

2.45	1. WEALTHY STAR, R Fallon (2-1)	2. Northern Scampall (2-1) fav, 3. My- sarys Pwyer (3-1) 5 ran, 5. J Barry (7)
3. Cadette (10-11 fav), 3. Shampoa (2-1)	4. Myrddin (1-1) Duff (3-8 fav), 5. Charn- 11 ran 11, 12 (Hambury) Tote 14.00; 11 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Duff 1.30	6.30, 7. Woodstock (2-1) Fav, 8. Char- 11 ran 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
11 ran 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	Duff 1.30, Tote 14.00; 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Duff 1.30	(5-1), 1. Siter Rags (3-8 fav), 2. (11-1) 11 ran 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
3.15	1. PREMIER GENERATION, 3 Whitlow (3-1), 2. Captain Scott (4-1), 3. Shampoa (2-1) 12 ran Nk, 12 (Ad Arbu- not Tote 15.00, 12.80, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, Duff 1.40 16 Tote 19.00, CSF 129.58, Tricest-	4.00, 1. SBY Rags, M Pomon (1-3 fav); One 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 11 ran 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
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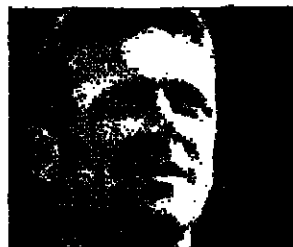






## France 98

Columbia top Tunisia 19  
Marta Maddini gives her verdict on Italy 18  
England's ref in action 18  
Jim White in Lyon, city of tolerance and T-shirts 17  
Scots lose McKinlay 17



## Flip side

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# The Guardian Sport

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## France 98



Rising to the challenge... England's captain Alan Shearer displays his air power as the Romania goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea and defender Iulian Filipescu struggle to get off the ground. PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL BOYCE

Group G: Romania 2 England 1

## Petrescu shatters England

### Last-gasp goal from Romania steals Owen's thunder

David Lacey in Toulouse on a result that sets up a showdown against Colombia

**D**AN PETRESCU brought England to their knees in the Stade Municipal last night with a last-minute goal after Michael Owen had appeared to have answered England's call with a dramatic equaliser to Viorel Moldovan's effort for Romania two minutes into the second half.

Petrescu, receiving a pass from the left, held off a clumsy challenge from his Chelsea team-mate Graeme Le Saux in the penalty area and fired a shot through goalkeeper David Seaman's legs. Owen entered the fray in place of Teddy Sheringham in the 73rd minute and was on the spot to force the ball home from close range with England staring defeat in the face after the opening strike by Moldovan, who happens to play for Coventry City.

For England, games against Romania have usually been uneasy affairs characterised by the difficulty English teams have always found in

getting to grips with opponents who do not give the ball away. Last night's match was always going to be a further test of how far, under Hoddle, England's style has moved towards a more patient, possessive way of doing things.

From a Romanian point of view, following Colombia's 1-0 victory earlier over Tunisia, a draw was the more acceptable result in terms of winning the group than it was for England. Romania would still lie second on goal difference but have a relatively easier final group game against Tunisia compared to England's meeting with Colombia in Lens.

Not that there was much sign of passivity from either side last night. In fact Hagi, immediately identified as Romania's puppet master, managed to earn a yellow card after only three minutes for bringing down Sol Campbell.

From the outset, then, this was a contest of movement and aggression. It made

sense: neither team could afford to play the sort of containing game with which England teased Tunisia during the opening 20 minutes in Marseille.

Adrian Ilie's speed and mobility, together with his habit of drifting into space late to pick up passes from Hagi, posed an underlying threat. The early corners were Romanian, but as soon as England spread their play and started to open up the right flank for

Darren Anderton they appeared the more likely to score.

In the sixth minute there was an echo of Euro 96 in the way that Anderton, set up by Gary Neville's overlapping run and passes from Teddy Sheringham and David Batty, cut in to skim the crossbar with a rising shot. A minute later Anderton gathered David Batty's return ball before producing a cross that found Alan Shearer's head

beating the hands of Bogdan Stelea and Gheorghe Popescu clearing from the goalmouth. Paul Scholes's half-touch of a shot. This was a confident, composed England and on the quarter-hour an old Tottenham combination produced another English roar as a centre from Anderton led to Sheringham volleying the ball just wide. Hagi was seen as an avenue for openings, but Romania's attacks were gradually being stifled by the English cover, and their long balls, at that point, held little threat.

At this level, however, that can signal a moment of great danger, and, sure enough, Romania all but scored out of nothing in the 25th minute. Doinei Munteanu's prodigious crossfield pass found Ilie unattended on the left. As he moved towards goal, David Seaman advanced to meet the menace whereupon Ilie lobbed the England goalkeeper; English hearts stopped as the ball sailed towards an empty net — and rebounded from the bar.

Around about that time Paul Ince pulled up in some discomfort, possibly with an ankle injury. The effect was

dramatic. Three minutes past the half-hour Ince gave way to David Beckham, whose absence from the side had been causing no little controversy. Now, albeit through force of circumstance, England had a chance to find out if Anderton and Beckham could operate as a pair on the right when it mattered most. Certainly the immediate signs were encouraging with Beckham having the air of a man with a point to make.

But so did Hagi and two minutes into the second half he had made it to England's chagrin. An innocent Romanian throw on the right suddenly became fraught with danger as Hagi turned away from Le Saux with Campbell not sure what to do.

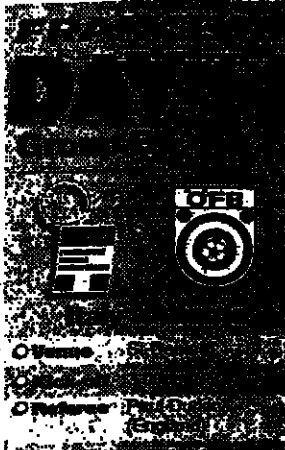
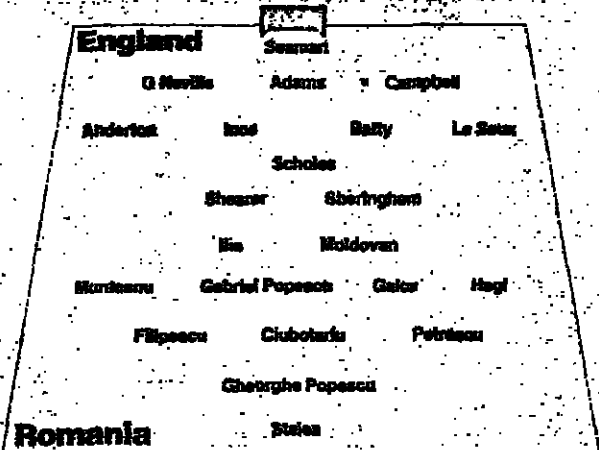
Before he could act, Hagi had lobbed the ball square over the head of Tony Adams, who turned too late to stop Moldovan striding past him to beat Seaman from close range. It was a sucker punch of a goal and one that had exploded a rare lapse in England's concentration.

New Romania's attack, buoyed by this success, began to find angles of approach while made Hoddle's defence

look square and ponderous. Ilie thumped a 20 yard shot into Seaman's stomach and then sent Hagi past Gary Neville with an excellent pass which was let down by an uncharacteristically poor touch from the Romanian captain. England's attack was starting to labour as the opposition Marked back at full space. Something of the earlier zest had gone from Hoddle's side. Then Beckham lifted English spirits with a free kick just over the bar. Soon after that over Shearer had nodded the ball down Anderton drove the ball across the goal mouth, Sheringham failing to reach it at the bar post.

With 17 minutes to go, not unexpectedly, Sheringham gave way to Michael Owen and within 10 minutes he produced an equaliser. Shearer gained possession to the right of goal and amid the confusion after he had driven the ball in low Owen forced it into the net. That moment almost seemed Owen's destiny.

**SUBSTITUTIONS** Romania: Single for Hagi, Zinic, Marinov for Sanga, 54, Larin for Moldovan, 57, England: Beckham for Ince, 33, Owen for Sheringham, 73, 60, 62 Romania: Hagi, Popescu, Ciobotaru, 60 Romania: Hagi, Popescu, Ciobotaru, 60 Romania: Hagi, Popescu, Ciobotaru, 60



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**Scotland v**

**Yesterday's result**  
Group G  
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Yesterday's result

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